714005

Preserving the Past for the Future

FLASH BACK

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIES
FEB 9 1984
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Litteral Township
Community & Family 1
Kessler Mountain 13
Bill Nye's Remarks 29
Five Generations of Pioneers 32
Queries 37
The Benjamen Reed Family 41
The Reeds of Greathouse Springs . . . 43
The Luttrells 46

FEBRUARY 1984

Washington County Historical Society

Preserving the Past for the Future

FLASHBACK

Volume 34 ✻ Number 1

FLASHBACK is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. All material being submitted for publication should be sent to the editor at 30 S. College Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72701. No payment is made for the articles published in FLASHBACK.

Membership in this Society is open to anyone interested in the collection and preservation of Washington County history. Membership dues are $7.50 annually, payable on a calendar basis.

Copies of FLASHBACK for prior years cost $5.00 each. Current issues are $3.00 each.

✻ **OFFICERS** ✻

President . . . . . Lois Lawson Morris
Vice President . . . . . Arlie Pennington
Corresponding Secretary . . . . . Kay Brumfield
Recording Secretary . . . . . Betty Williams
Treasurer . . . . . Barbara Mitchell
Editors . . . . . Jean & Keith Newhouse

✻ **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** ✻

Serving Thru 1984
Bob Besom, Kent McVey, Mildred Winborn

Serving Thru 1985
Betty Askew, Cynthia Haseloff, Wallie Ingalls

Serving Thru 1986
Helen Brannan, Newt Hailey Jr., Jerome Jansma

Washington County Historical Society

LITTERAL TOWNSHIP, COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

by Mrs. Bobby G. Wilson

Litteral Township in northwestern Washington County, Arkansas was named for this pioneer family. It was first believed to be named for the earliest generation of this family to migrate here from Tennessee, but careful checking of land records show that it was the son who owned land in the community and township, which later bore his name.

James Litteral, thought to be of Irish descent, was born ca 1801, probably in North Carolina. According to information he gave on the 1880 Washington County census, his father was born in Virginia. His mother (possibly a Woolsey) was born in TN, VA, or PA, according to various sources. Around 1830 James married Ruhama Welty in TN, where she was born ca 1805. The 1880 census lists her father's birthplace as Germany, and her mother's as PA. (According to a long-time Fayetteville resident, Mrs. Mary K. Bradford, she was told that her great-grandfather, James Rainwater, Sr., took Ruhama, her sister or half-sister Susan, and possibly another sister Elizabeth, in as "orphans" to raise in his Tennessee home. Susan Welty married Jacob Keifer, another Washington County pioneer, and both are buried at Mt. Comfort Cemetery. James' son, John Berry Rainwater, was an early Fayetteville lumber dealer, said to have built the first school for blacks on his farm (more recently the Joe Steele farm, where old Highway 71 and the north end of the 71 Bypass intersect).

James and Ruhama (Welty) Litteral

James and Ruhama Litteral had five children born in TN, possibly all born in Meigs County, before migrating here in 1846, where their sixth and last child was born. James Littrell's (sic) purchase is listed in the Original Land Entry Book of Washington County as 80 acres in Section 10, Township 16 of Range 31, which is near the intersection of Highway 16 West and the paved road to Farmington. President James Buchanan signed the land certificate No. 9534, recorded to James "Litrell" in Deed Book 174, page 193. Ruhama was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and she and James' large monument can be found in the first row of graves immediately behind the church of the same denomination at Mt. Comfort Cemetery, west of Fayetteville. James died 27 December 1882 and Ruhama on 2 July 1886. They were the parents of the following children: Susan Narcissis, Elizabeth, Jacob, Penelope Jane, Sarah, and James Jr. We will get back to them later in this write-up. (Their first grandchild, Sally Banks, was the oldest resident of Springdale in 1946, according to a news clipping.)

When the Civil War was raging, James' and Ruhama's oldest son Jacob enlisted in the Confederate army. He served three and one-half years, after which he returned to farm life. Jacob Litteral, also known as "Jake", owned a large farm in Clear Creek, a couple of miles north of his parents' land. It

was in Section 26, Township 17, Range 31, and was at the hub of where three roads intersect. It is said that Jake gave some of his land for the little community to use for businesses. The settlement, known earlier as Sycamore Springs, came to be known as Litteral, as did the township. In 1880 Jake married Adelia Hatcher, whose mother was a Webb of that family of Webb City, Jasper County, Missouri. Gradually Jake's interests turned from farming to the mining boom going on in southwest Missouri. He moved to Carterville, MO in 1983 and later propered in banking interests as well. His biographies can be read in *THE HISTORY OF JASPER COUNTY (MO)*, Pages 779-780, Volume 2, by Livingston, 1912, and *THE HISTORY OF MISSOURI*, page 83, Volume 4, by Conrad.

Probably because Jake Litteral had left the area, the community underwent still another name change, although the name of the township remained the same. Hiram P. Richardson had a store with the nearest post office, at "Old Wheeler" near the White Oak community, about two and one-half miles west of Litteral. When the railroad came through this little valley, with connections to Elm Springs, Rogers and Monte Ne to the north, it was deemed desirable to have a post office closer to the railroad for easier mail delivery. So Mr. Richardson moved his store and post office to the crossroads of Litteral, but retained the name of Wheeler post office. The community name gradually changed from Litteral to Wheeler. (Many early settlements were known by the name the postmaster called them, frequently using their own name. Many communities had more than one name before one stuck.) Because of the railroad, there was an active fruit and railroad-tie shipping business. Peaches, apples, dried apples and strawberries were loaded on the trains in large numbers and mail exchanged. Burtis Adolphus Rudolph (whose large home was torn down on the University of Arkansas Agricultural Experimental Farm just a few years ago) had two hundred acres of strawberries at Litteral-Wheeler and built the first canning factory there. He also had factories at Robinson, Savoy and Fayetteville. Mr. Rudolph also built a sweet potato storage building beside the railroad tracks on North Street in Fayetteville, and the name Litteral Canning Co. could still be read on it recently, beside the Ranco Building Supply. Later on, Arthur Hodgson built another canning factory at Wheeler.

The school, which sat on the banks of Clear Creek, near the crossroads, was called Sycamore. The teacher there for many years was P.C. Morgan. After country schools were consolidated into town, the building continued to serve the community as Sycamore Springs Church. The history of Litteral-Wheeler and White Oak communities inevitably must include mention of the orphanage run by Mr. Morgan. His two-story home used to stand in the front yard of the main residence at the U of A Beef Farm at White Oak. Around 1912, when train loads of orphans were brought across the country from New York, Mr. Morgan was responsible for housing and educating a large number of them, until he could find families to adopt them in the northwest Arkansas area.

Litteral-Wheeler was a thriving community until the railroad was taken out, shortly before WWI. A grocery store, post office, automatic laundry,

and rural fire department are all that now remain of this once thriving crossroads town.

The Children of James and Ruhama Welty Litteral

1. Susan Narcissa "Sukie" Litteral was born 6 Jan 1832 in TN., and came to Arkansas with her parents in 1846. At age 19 she married 6 Aug 1850 to 20-year-old Benjamin Franklin "Doc" Pollock. He was born 4 Oct 1830 in Limestone County, Alabama, son of Lorenzo Dow and Sarah Pollock, born in Alabama. Lorenzo had land listed in the Original Land Entry Book of Washington County, Arkansas in Section 26, Township 17, Range 31, purchased in 1838. B.F. and Sukie Pollock were living at Sycamore Springs during the Civil War, in which he served with the Confederate Army. By 1880 they were living in Springdale, where B.F., a Mason, had a drug store. Sukie died at their Holcomb Street home 15 Oct 1897 after a marriage of 47 years. B.F. married second 13 Jan 1901 Mrs. Mary B. Hale who was born 13 Feb 1848, and died 15 May 1906. B.F. died 21 July 1906 and was buried with his two wives at Bluff Cemetery, a short distance inside the gate, at the left. They were the parents of nine children, all born in Washington County.
   a. Sarah Elizabeth "Sally" Pollock, born 17 June 1851. The following article from a 20 June 1946 newspaper tells of her life, partially in her own words: "Springdale Woman, 95 Years Old, Recalls Days of Civil War. Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Banks, Springdale's oldest resident, skipped spring house cleaning this year, but not because of age. The spring rains were the cause of her having to go through these cleaning rites in the summer. She paused for a rest after taking up an old-fashioned rag carpet from the bedroom and throwing it out to be burned, and chatted about 'then' and 'now'.

" 'Yes, I was 95 years old June 17,' she said. 'I suffer some from rheumatism, but I can still do more work than some people will do.'

"When asked if she remembered anything of the days of the War Between the States, she told a story of family life of the day as it was touched by the disruption of the war and of upheaval that came in the wake of the conflict. She used none of the 'damn-Yankee' expressions in her conversation, but clung to the 'Reb' and 'Fed' division of friends and enemies. 'We lived at Sycamore Springs, southwest of Springdale and saw much of the war. I saw General Price's army in retreat. I saw my own father taken prisoner by the Feds while he was home on furlough. He was ill at the time of his capture. He had hiccoughs for 15 days and we thought it partially due to an extreme diet of cornmeal. We did not expect to see him or even hear of him again as he was hurried on with the other Confederates captured in that section, but as he passed through Elm Springs he managed to send a message by Ab Wasson to his family, and a second message came while he was on the march to the camp, this one sent by 'Doc' Arment.'

"She told a vivid story of the smallpox scourge as it ravaged the household. This preceded the capture of the father and occurred when he was home from the army. Sarah, her mother and the baby fell victims to the dread disease. A doctor in Fayetteville was called but because of the extra demands on his time he was slow in responding. Slippery elm poultices were made and applied by the father. He kept a washtub of hot water and elm bark in the bedroom where all three were, and he served as druggist, physician and nurse. Her scars following her convalescence became a 'blessing not in disguise', she said. The Feds appeared at the family smokehouse and she appeared at the window of their home. When the raiding party saw her, a soldier threatened to shoot if she came any nearer, but as she opened the door to go out the squad retreated. She had saved the few remaining hams from the marauders. As a refugee she spent two years with her family near Springfield, MO. They returned to Sycamore Springs at the close of the war, and in 1879 her family moved to Shiloh, which is now Springdale.

"Mrs. Banks' father was Benjamin Franklin Pollock and her mother was Susan Litteral. She was the oldest of nine children. In 1881 she was married to John Funk of Palestine, Illinois. He died in 1889. She was married to Jabez Banks in 1899 and he died in 1910. She now lives with her daughter, Miss May Funk, at their home on West Emma. She has one sister, Mrs. A.M. Swartwout of Mountain Grove, MO; and two brothers, J.T. Pollock of Miami, OK, and Ben Pollock, Jr. of Tulsa, OK. Mrs. Banks is a charter member of the Methodist Church."

Sally Banks died 4 Nov 1949, age 98 years, 4 months, 17 days. Her only child, Sarah May Funk, born 29 May 1884, and died 22 Feb 1953, never married. Both are buried at Bluff Cemetery.

b. Martha Adaline Jane "Matt" Pollock, born 8 June 1853 or 4, and married 12 Sep 1872 Mathias C. "Mass" Weir. They farmed near the Thomas school house in the Steele community, near the present Arbor Acres lake, south of Tontitown. Their six children were born at Elm Springs: Ida, born 1 Oct 1873 and married Ike Sullivan; Arthur, born 2 June 1880, a Lt. Col.; Ollie, born 29 Aug 1882, married Will Carter; Maud, born 18 Apr 1885 and married a Mr. Dean; Susie, born 19 July 1888 and married a Mr. Summers; and Harley Weir born 25 Apr 1891.

c. Mary Rheue "Molly" Pollock, born 27 Jan 1856, and married 27 or 29 Dec 1875 to Charles Dean Stout. He was born 19 Feb 1857 on Clear Creek, and died 6 Jul 1917 at Moodys, OK. She died 16 Jan 1904 at Jacksonville, Texas, before her father died. Their six children were born in Washington County, AR: Oscar Cornelius, born 13 Sep 1880 and married Minnie Marie Cassat; Margie Susan, born 10 Jan 1882 and married 20 Jul 1902 William Franklin Etheridge; Lillie Elvira, born 9 Sep 1885 and married George Washington Sherrod; Sarah Emeline "Emma", born 19 Feb 1888, never married; Albert Pierson, born 1 Mar 1891 and married 7 Aug 1909 to Bertha Mae

Watkins (their grandson, Dan Edward Flanery, Jr. of Phoenix, AZ contributed a great deal of information to this family history, for which we are truly grateful); and Grace Dean Stout, born 6 Nov 1893 and married 8 Jan 1910 to Lloyd Earl Kinsey.

d. Margaret Frances "Fannie" Pollock, born Feb 1859, married 11 July 1880 at Springdale, Franklin C. Ritter, son of Joel Ritter. F.C. was born and raised at Elm Springs and was in the grocery business for many years in Springdale. When he was 77, he and his wife moved to Los Angeles to be near some of their daughters who lived there. He died two years later, survived by his wife and six daughters: Lena, Maude, Cora, Mamie, Anna, and Ruth.

e. Jonas Tibbits "Tub" Pollock, born 30 Jan 1861, presumed to be the baby who had smallpox when Sally and their mother also had it. He married 23 Aug 1883 to Ella Stauffer. Mr. Pollock died 23 Apr 1951 at Miami, OK. Their only known child was Harry Otis Pollock, born 26 Apr 1898 at Clay City, IN, who married May V. (Wallace) Davis.

f. Elvira "Vira" Clementine Pollock, born 26 Oct 1864 and died 9 Oct 1899. Only child, Opal, died Oct 1898, age 15.

g. Louisa Matilda "Lula" Pollock, born 12 Feb 1867, married 22 Dec 1892 Arthur Mobley Swartwout. She died 11 Oct 1961. A daughter, Mildred Chase, lives Prosser, WA.

h. Albert S. Pollock, born 27 Feb 1870 at Elm Springs. According to his obituary, he lived most of his life in Springdale, but died 6 Jan 1897 at Marked Tree, AR. His funeral service was held at his parents' residence on Holcomb Street, conducted by the Methodist Rev. Martin, and internment was at Bluff Cemetery. He left a wife (Georgia, who later married a Mr. Hull), and three little ones: Frank, Mallie, and Clyde Hershman Pollock (named in grandfather's will).

i. Benjamin Franklin "Bennie" Pollock, born 30 Mar 1875 or 1876 at Elm Springs, and married Nancy Maude Riggs, a native of Huntsville, AR. They lived at Muskogee and Tulsa, OK and he retired as a Midland Valley Railroad conductor. She died in May 1951 at age 71, and he died 6 Jun 1960. They were buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tulsa. Their daughter Jewel Wanda married Jim F. Fear in 1919 and lived in Wichita, KS.

2. Elizabeth G. "Liz" Litteral, daughter of James and Ruhama, was born 23 Jan 1833 in TN. Marriage Book A, page 314, states "I, Benjamin M. Routh, a registered ordained minister of the Gospel of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, do certify that at the County of Washington, State of Arkansas, I performed the marriage ceremony on 21 July 1853 between George W. Sparks, age 22, and Elizabeth Litteral, age 21." G.W. was born 28 Jul 1831 in TN, and according to the 1880 census, both his parents were born in KY. He purchased land in 1857 and 1860, listed in the Original Land Entry Book, Section 12, Township 17, Range 31. George was Administrator for Soloman Sparks, possibly his father. George and Liz Sparks, who

were members of the Methodist Church, died at their home at Robinson, in southern Benton County. Mr. Sparks, described as "an old settler" in his obituary, died 29 June 1896, age 65, and fellow Masons conducted his service at Elm Springs Cemetery, not far from the entrance. The following January Liz joined her husband and some of their children who preceded them to the other shore. There were nine Sparks children born in Washington County, Arkansas:

a. Mary J. Sparks, born ca 1854, thought married a Honeycut and moved to Washington State.
b. John T. Sparks, born ca 1856, thought to be unmarried.
c. Sarah M. "Mag" Sparks was born 16 Apr 1859 and died 23 May 1899. She married Asa A. Sanders who was born 20 Jul 1853 and died 4 Jan 1912. They were buried at Elm Springs near her parents. His obituary said "He died at the Jake Literal place west of town". Their children were: Betty; Minnie who married a Mr. Strange and lived at Amarillo, TX; Mona; and Suzie.
d. Jasper Newton Sparks, born ca 1861, thought unmarried.
e. Annie A. Sparks, born ca 1864.
f. Lucy, born and died 1866.
g. B.F. Sparks, born 20 Dec 1867, died 29 Sep 1886, Elm Springs Cemetery.
h. LuElla Sparks, born March, 1870, thought married a Johnson.
i. Martha E. "Matt" Sparks, born ca 1871, thought unmarried.

Jacob W. (Jake) Litteral

3. Jacob W. "Jake" Litteral was born 10 Aug 1840 in Meigs County, TN. He was six when he moved with parents to Washington County where he grew to adulthood. He served in the Civil War, being wounded at the battle of Poison Springs, Arkansas. Back home again, Jake became a successful farmer, and the settlement his farm was in became known as Litteral, as well as the Township. In August of 1880 he married Adelia Ann "Delia" Hatcher. She was born 30 Apr 1855 in TN, daughter of Jabez and Paulina J. Webb Hatcher, whose brother founded Webb City, MO in 1876. Jake bacame partner with Delia's brother Ben Hatcher in buying their mother's Missouri farm. Men were making fortunes in lead and zinc mining in that area at that time, so Ben and Jake went into that joint venture on their land and became successful. Jake's family lived at Carterville, where he also became active in banking interest, while still operating a farm of his own. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge. Delia died 23 Feb 1923 and Jake on 13 Aug 1923, and both were buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery at Webb City, MO. They had three children:

a. Jessie Ethel Litteral, born 9 Sept 1881 at Webb City, MO, and died 18 May 1968. On 4 Dec. 1907 she married William Covington Burch. He was born 6 Jan 1872, son of Edward M. and Louiza Jane Dougherty Burch, and died 25 Mar 1948. He was a Carterville, MO banker. Their three children were: Halcynon Ann, born 20 Nov 1908, and married Henry Hook Harris, Jr., a Marshall, MO attorney; Mary Louise, born 28 Jan 1913 and married William Wilson Waggoner (whose daughter Nancy and husband Larry G. Bittle, both U of A graduates, have an insurance business in Fayetteville, AR); and William Covington Burch, Jr., born 9 Apr 1921.

b. Charles N. Litteral, born 24 May 1883, died age 24 on 26 Apr 1907. Buried Mt. Hope Cemetery, Webb City, MO.

c. Lura Pauline "Polly" Litteral, born 5 Aug 1888 Carterville, MO, and married Andrew Jackson Harrington. He was born 2 Jan 1884 at Doniphan, MO and became a prominent dry goods merchant at Carterville. He also owned a brokerage house and dealt in securities. Their only child, Drury Litteral Harrington, born 1910, married Elizabeth Josephine "Jo" Harris, and they had John Drury "Jack" and Richard Andrew Harrington, both of whom lived at Corpus Christi, TX.

4. Penelope Jane Litteral, born 20 Oct 1843 in TN, was only three when her parents moved to Arkansas. On 13 Feb 1870 she and Daniel Lanning Bruner were married by Rev. Martin Thornsberry, the pioneer Methodist minister for whom the Thornsberry campground in northwestern Washington County was named. Daniel was born 1 Aug 1841 in Monroe County, IN and served in the Confederate Army from Texas where he grew to manhood. There is a biographical sketch of him on page 816 in Goodspeed's 1889 history, and the complete family to date is recorded in the October 1969 issue of the Benton County (AR) Historical Society *PIONEER*, with corrections in the

Cora B. Carter. Butch Bruner, Ellen B. Hayes, Dollie B. Hammer, Walt Bruner

Daniel Lanning Bruner, Etta B. Wilson, Penelope Litteral Bruner Ruey B. Draper

9 Photo taken in 1892, Robinson, AR

summer 1980 issue. Being from a long line of Methodist ministers, Daniel built a two-story Methodist Church (with Masonic Hall on the second floor) in the Robinson community, not far from his large Benton County farm. The 100-year-old landmark structure tragically burned to the ground in 1967. Mr. Bruner, a lay preacher, built his family a two-story home the year before he died of pneumonia at age 52 on 25 Feb 1893. (The farm and home are still owned by his grandson, "Buck" Bruner.) Daniel died when his youngest child was only three years old, but the mother Penelope kept her family together and raised them on the farm, with all doing their share of the work. The Yell Cemetery where they are buried, joins this farm on the north. She died 16 Sep 1911. Their children:

a. Mary Ellen Bruner, born 28 Jan 1871, married Fletcher Hayes on 9 Sep 1902. He was born 26 Jan 1871 at Cumberland, TN, son of George W. and Elizabeth (Pucket) Hayes who lived at Mt. Comfort west of Fayetteville. He was a Benton County farmer. He died 8 Nov 1940, and she 8 Apr 1958, age 87. Both are buried at Yell Cemetery. They had four children: Agusta Crystal "Gussie", now Mrs. Roland Luther of Savoy (her daughter Margie Gates had Bonnie Epperson, David Muntz and Michael Wells); James Walter who married Gracia Brough and had Bebe Dean Garcia and James Fletcher Hayes; Harold Lanning who married Louise Oxford of Goshen and had Norma Jean Opalka, Laura Ellen Moss, and Harold Lloyd Hayes; and Mourine Geraldine who married Donald J. Durnal of Weddington and had James Lanning, Harvey Gene and Leroy Dwane Durnal.

b. James Butcher Bruner, born 2 Jun 1873, married Kate Wilson on 1 Apr 1907, daughter of James Mart and Mary McDaniels Wilson. "Butch" farmed and in later years they owned a boarding house at Siloam Springs. He died 18 Feb 1953, age 79, and Kate on 13 Jan 1970, age 83, and both are buried at Oak Hill Cememtery at Siloam Springs, AR. Their two children are: Reva Norma, and John Smiley Bruner of Siloam.

c. Lucinda E. "Dollie" Bruner, born 9 Apr 1875, married 23 Dec 1894 to John B. Hammer who was born 13 Apr 1963. They lived most of their married lives at Hereford, TX but were buried at Robinson, AR. He died 21 Mar 1929 and she on 19 Nov 1954, age 79. Their two children were: Ona, who never married, and Edith Lee who died young.

d. Walter Lee "Walt" Bruner, born 1 Jan 1878 at Elm Springs, but moved next year to Robinson, where he spent the remainder of his life, farming, and active in community affairs. He married 19 July 1914 at Elm Springs to Cora Belle McCoy, the daughter of John Newton and Martha Cox (Delozier) McCoy. Walt died 24 Dec 1957, age 79, and Cora on 11 Sep 1975, and both are buried in Yell Cemetery, next to the farm where they spent most of their lives, and which their son still operates. They raised a foster son, Tommy Salverson, one of the many orphans brought here from New York early in

this century. He first married Gertrude Brough, and they had Douglas and Thomas Salverson who now live at Lakewood, California, and second married Roxidene Reed. Walt and Cora's other children were: Maxine Rena who married Harman Draper (named for his grandfather George Harman, from whom the Harmon community of Washington County got its name); Mervine Doris who married Robert W. Anderson and had Brenda Lee, Paula Jean and Sherry Belle Anderson; Walter Lee "Buck" who married Marjorie Lurline Allen, daughter of the founder of Allen Canning Co., and they had Judy Colleen Martin, Jane Meredith Mason, and Walter Lee Bruner III.

e. Cora Edna Bruner, born 9 Jun 1880, married Charlie Carter in 1900 at Elm Springs. He was born 8 Oct 1879, son of Dazzel and Sarah Ellen (Burrow) Carter of Prairie Grove, AR. Charlie ran a grocery store many years at Siloam Springs and was a Justic of the Peace. Cora died 16 Oct. 1954, age 74, and he died 16 Jun 1970, age 90, and both were buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. Their children were: Penelope Clinton "Nell" who married James Corley Thompson who had a funeral home at Neosho, MO, and their children were: James Corley, Jr. and Coraless Evenson Freund; Ruetta who married Leslie Andrew Carman who had a drug store for many years at Prairie Grove, AR; Geraldine who married Caswell Newton Wilson (whose family background is covered in the Washington County Historical Society's book about William Wilson), and they had Faye Jeanette Kittrell, Coretta Edwards, and Linda Sue Bell Schwabb; Charlie Fay Carter who married Catherine Allen (sister of Lurline) and had Lynn Carter Eagan, and Mary Ellen Thomas; and Ona Erma "Toots" who married first Noah Johnson, Jr. and had Carter Rebecca Schildknecht, and married second Edward Tinsley and had Kaki and Edward.

f. Reumira "Ruey" Bruner, named for her grandmother Ruhama, born 20 Jun 1883, married 1 Jan 1905 Lonnie Oscar Draper. He was born 2 Feb 1881 at Sawyer on Wildcat Creek in Washington County, AR, son of Tom and Fannie (Sanderson) Draper, who moved to Robinson. Lonnie died 31 Oct 1949 and Ruey died 11 Apr 1977, age 93, and both are buried at Yell Cemetery. Their children were: Penelope who died at age 14; Sterman Edward Draper who married Edna Philpot and had Sterman Leon, Kenneth James, and Penelope Barbara "Penny" Rice; and Margaret Frances who first married Theador Harding "Ted" Lynch and had Ted Theron, Danny Gale, and Sheila Larue Lynch Judy. Margaret second married Joe White.

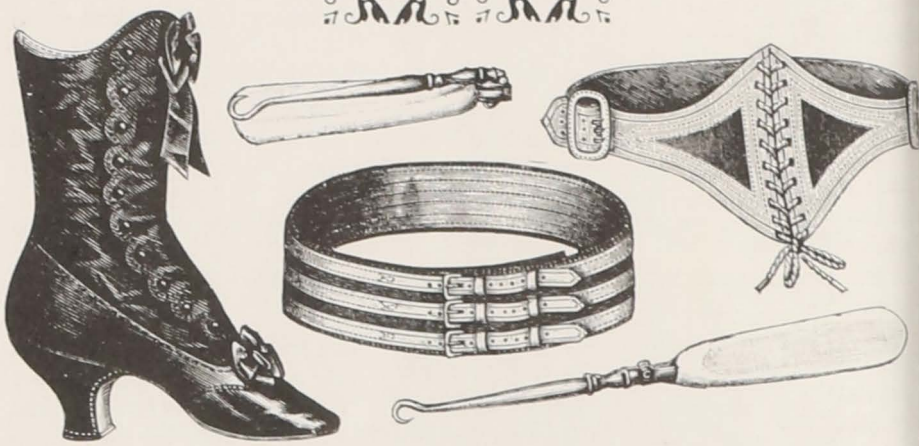
g. Daniel Clinton Bruner was born 19 Jan 1886 and died 18 Sept 1888. He was buried at Yell Cemetery.

h. Virginia Etta Bruner was born Apr 1889 and was only three when her father died. On 1 Feb 1908, while sitting in a horse-drawn buggy, she married James Oliver "Ollie" Wilson. He was born 23 Jan 1883 near Highfill in Benton County, but moved with his parents to

the Robinson area when he was four, where he spent the rest of his life. His parents were William Arch and Charity Angeline (Estell) Wilson, who are also buried at Yell Cemetery. An article listing this pioneer northwest Arkansas family appears in the Spring 1980 issue of *PIONEER*. Ollie and Etta Wilson were married for 61 years, ending with her death 24 Apr 1969, age 80. He died 3 Nov 1979, age 96, and both were buried at Yell Cemetery. Their children were: Ada Clinton Wilson who died at 16 of typhoid fever; Cora Lillian "Billie" who married Fred Holland Littrell; Woodrow Oliver Wilson who married Vivian Pauline Walker and had Paula Joanne Phillips; Virginia Elizabeth who married Kenneth Leon Walker and had Louetta Walker Sumerwell; and Bobby Gene Wilson who married Dorothy Lea Ware and had James David, William Michael, and Rodney Brian Wilson.

5. Sarah Litteral was born ca 1844 in TN and was brought to AR when two years old. It is believed she married "Fete" Mason and moved to Van Buren, AR. (Not knowing anyone in this family to contact, we can only speculate. Fete was sometimes used as a nickname for Lafayette. He could have been John Lafayette Mason.) A family which appears to be this one is found in the 1870 Census of Washington County, AR: John and Sarah Mason (he was born 1838 in NC), (1) Francis Mason born 1866 MO, (2) Joshua Mason born 1867 AR, (3) James Mason born 1869 AR.

6. James Litteral, Jr. was born ca 1850 in Arkansas, after the family moved here from TN. He married 9 Jan 1870 Margaret Bonham who was born 1850 in AR. It is believed they moved to Walla Walla, WA, but nothing is known about children.



Mt. Kessler Inn

"A PLACE TO REST, TO PLAY OR JUST TO BE"

A Documentation of the history, geography, and architecture of Kessler Mountain, Washington County, Arkansas.

by Richard A. Koppe

Each spring semester in the architecture school at the University of Arkansas, Cyrus Sutherland's historic preservation students choose a term project to occupy all their spare time. From this class, I received the initial spark to do a documentation of Kessler Mountain. The project intrigued me for several reasons. First of all, Cyrus' description of the mountain, which is only 5 miles southwest of Fayetteville, included tales of a German immigrant winemaker, a large rock house at the end of a lane on top of the mountain, and a conversion of this house into a "Bed and Breakfast" inn. Being of German descent with a romantic curiosity and a love for architectural preservation, this project seemed appropriate. In *FLASHBACK'S* volume 1, number 6, on page 7 of November 1951, Miss Jobelle Holcombe writes: "As I looked out over the surrounding picturesque hills at the distant mountains against the blue sky with its gray clouds, and at the valleys between the rolling hills, I could well understand why John and Hannah (the first pioneers of Kessler Mountain) would settle here to hew out of the wilderness an abiding place for the generations to come." In addition to her remarks, W.J. Lemke, the editor of *FLASHBACK* for several years, repeatedly com-

ments in numerous issues on his several romantic jaunts to the area. On one such trip to the top of the mountain, recorded in volume 5, no. 3, June 1955, Mr. Lemke reports, "I recall my surprise at finding the mountain-top perfectly level, with a 2-story stone house (It should say a rock house. There is a distinction between stone and rock. A stone house is constructed of quarried stone; whereas, a rock house is constructed of gathered rocks that are collected from the landscape.) in the center, and with a magnificent view of Fayetteville." The mountain truly possesses some special quality as if it were a romantic mystery novel just waiting to be read.

Although this paper is strictly meant to be written as a documentation, it is my hope that all who read it will make the jaunt up to the top of Kessler Mountain to experience their own first impressions. In a recent article in the *Arkansas Times* magazine, the editors felt strongly enough about the area to feature the Inn as one of six great Arkansas weekends for the Spring. An excerpt from that article on page 46 of the March 1983 issue will reinforce the desire for a visit.

> The early spring, long before the trees have leafed out and the nights still come early and cold with smoke-ghosts rising from the chimneys, is an uncertain time of year, one touched with melancholy when, caught between a stubborn winter and reluctant spring, we are apt to think of John Donne's "fainter and languishing" sun. It is a time of year for reflection, for the quieter pleasures of a weekend retreat to, say, a country inn in the mountains, one like the Mt. Kessler Inn just outside of Fayetteville on the road to Hogeye, a large, roomy stone house that sits on the top of the hill like the crown on a hat.
>
> Mount Kessler is the highest point, elevation 1,856 feet, in ⁂ Washington County and affords a view in all directions: of Fayetteville to the north and in the distance to the south and east a surrounding panorama of mountain wilderness where flow the headwaters of Arkansas' most beautiful streams, among them the White, War Eagle, Kings and Buffalo Rivers. For all its quiet isolation on top of Mount Kessler, the inn occupies a strategic position for exploring the Boston Mountain Range, said to be the oldest hills on earth, if one can break away from the comfort and solitude and beauty of this upland retreat. And, of course, Fayetteville is nearby, site of the University of Arkansas, a kind of Athens of learning and play.

The motto for this place is truly appropriate, "A place to rest, to play or just to be."

⁂ *So many people questioned the statement "highest in Washington County" that your editors decided to check its authenticity. We went to the Soil Conservation Department in the Federal Building at Fayetteville to look at its U.S. Geographic Survey maps. We do not present this list as a final answer, but it leaves no doubt that Kessler Mountain is not the highest*

in our county: Robinson Mountain (south of Baldwin) 1,880 feet; Bloyed Mountain at West Fork 2,020 feet; Woolsey Mountain 2,081 feet; Mount Henderson (east of Winslow) 2,245 feet; Mt. Signal (east of Winslow) 2,031 feet. Plus, there is one mountain south of Hutchins Creek and another close to Brentwood which have altitudes of 2,190 and 2,202 feet, respectively.

Just a few words need to be said about preservation. With a renewed interest in the area and an expected increase in the number of visitors, I am pleased to give my account of the information I have gathered for the enjoyment of the visitors of the inn. For this documentation is the first and very necessary step to preserving the past. It is my hope that new visitors will not try to destroy that past by adding graffitti or by not repecting the personal property of others.

On May 17, 1982, Betty and Bill Harrison, with four other couples, bought the large rock house to be adaptively reused as a country bed-and-breakfast inn. The idea of converting many old homes into bed-and-breakfast inns is just starting to sweep the United States, a practice that is widespread in Europe. Preservationists across the country see this movement as a saving grace for many old houses. Betty Harrison, the head innkeeper, says: "We thought people would delight in a country setting, that it would be a refreshing change from a downtown hotel or motel." I truly agree. Mrs. Harrison added that the Kessler Inn is slightly different from most bed-and-breakfasts. The Harrisons do not live in the inn unless they have guests staying over. In addition, they have enhanced the grounds by adding a tennis court, and are presently working on a nature trail. Mrs. Harrison added, "The business is doing very well. We are open through Christmas, and the weekends are filled." When I first met Mrs. Harrison, she felt that the historical significance of the place was not overwhelming, but that its value was in its beauty and serenity. The insight of this fond group of couples is exemplary.

After researching the area, I learned that the people of this region were truly its strength. The owners of the inn are all community leaders from prestigious backgrounds. Bill Harrision is a physician in Fayetteville; Steve Nichols is a psychologist and his wife, Landrea, a nurse; Dan Ferritor is chairman of the Sociology Department at the university, his wife, Patsy, works for a printing firm in Springdale; Jack Marr is a professor in the Psychology Department at the university, and his wife, Jo, is a school teacher; Bob Douglas, formerly the managing editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*, chairs the Journalism Department at the university, and his wife, Martha, is an editor at the *Gazette*. In addition to these people, I'd like to thank the residents of the area for their tremendous help, most especially, the courteous treatment of Benjamin Franklin Johnson III, who has lived in the area since 1907, and Miss Alice Kelly, who has lived here even longer.

The first residents of Kessler Mtn. were Indians who settled near the present day springs. Water has always been an essential requirement, not only important to the Indians — but also to the pioneers. Today, there are excellent springs very near to the houses of Raymond Reynolds, the old

Wozencraft home, Ben Johnson's house, and the Kelly residences. These are the locations of the very first homesites. Raymond Reynolds has collected several arrowheads and tomahawks near these springs on his property. He has collected over the years a large box containing various sized pieces, ranging from the size of a thumbnail to the size of an index finger. He has taken them to the university to approximate their age and has found them to be of various ages, the crudest ones being very old. This suggests to me that the Indians remained at these springs generation after generation. In addition, due to the geography of the area, the land between Kessler Mtn. and Miller Mtn. to the south appears to be an important pass crucial to the Indian traveler without roads.

When Arkansas entered the union on June 15, 1836, a wave of migration occurred to the state, primarily from Tennessee. The new residents were eager to buy land in 40 acre parcels. Each section of land is split 16 ways into these 40 acre lots. The land of the Kessler Mtn. region is mostly within sections 31 and 36 as is obvious from Loyd McConnell's original plat book of the area (Loyd was secretary of the Washington County Historic Society for many years). John Rieff was the original owner of the top of Kessler Mountain as well as the Reynolds, the Kellys, and the Johnson homesites. It is believed by Miss Alice Kelly that John built a house that has rotted away to nothing very near Ben F. Johnson III's spring. In *FLASHBACK'S* Nov. 1951 issue on page 9, there is the legal description of the purchase of this property.

> A deed dated Oct. 22, 1838, whereby John and Mary McGarrah (X her mark) conveyed to John Rieff for $35 "the South half of the Southeast quarter of Section 31 in Township 16N of range 30 West, containing 20 acres. This deed is signed by A.H. McKisick, J.P. and is endorsed "Filed for record" by B.H. Smithson, clerk. The filing fee was $2.25, divided as follows: recording $1.25; tax .50; certificate and seal .50.

John Rieff and his children are indeed important to the shaping of Fayetteville. There are numerous articles on this family in *FLASHBACK* (For example, Jun. 51 p. 23; Nov. 51 pp. 5, 23, and 25; July 54 pp. 19 and 26; Oct. 55 p. 33; May 59 p. 8; July 60 p. 33; June 62 p. 19; April 64 p. 45; and May 67 p. 19). I found the information on this one family overwhelming. In a way, the information became confusing due to the leisurely spelling code of the 19th century, the extremely large families, and the extreme chore to decide the relevance. Hopefully, a book can be compiled on this important pioneering family that left several descendants throughout Washington County.

In an article written by Marian Brinson Lisman for the April issue of *FLASHBACK* of 1964, she believes that John Rieff, sometimes spelled Reiff or Rifes, is the brother of a Jos. Rieff who has been identified as the contractor for the "Hermitage" and "Tulip Grove" both in Tennessee. There is plenty of evidence that John came from a family of builders; he himself learned the carpentry trade which he taught to his sons. His son Henry built the beautiful house across from the Walker-Stone house, a house very sim

iliar to its counterpart across the street that has now become Moore's Funeral Chapel. Henry and another son of John's, Orren, built Ozark Institute and Arkansas College.

The Rieff House — now Moore's Chapel — photo 1978

In addition to building talent, the Rieff family has a long history of war prowess. John's father-in-law, Mr. Ross, fought in the Revolutionary War. John's brothers fought in the Creek Indian War and in the Mexican War. John's grandson, Robert S., the son of Orren M. and Mary A., lost his life in the Civil War. Robert leaves an interesting account in a letter written to his parents (reprinted in the Nov. 1951 issue of *FLASHBACK* on page 13.) I am aware there are several other relatives of John who have fought in numerous wars throughout our country's history. In an article for the Nov. issue of 1951 about the dedication of the plaque placed on the Henry Rieff house, Miss Jobelle Holcombe tells of the Rieff history.

> Thus far this sketch has lead us to the grass roots of Fayetteville and the historic auction. But the history of the Rieff family, like that of many pioneers in Arkansas, carries us back to those sturdy men and women whose courage and the will-to-act helped to form this nation as well as this city and this county. Henry Rieff's grandfather was Christopher Rieff, born of German descent in Pennsylvania where he lived during the Revolutionary War; thence he moved to Wilson county, Tennessee, in 1800. He died in 1824. His wife, Mary Wilschannah, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Their son, John Rieff (the ninth child), who became the father of Henry, was born in Winchester, Virginia, in 1787 (born June 9th 1787). He later lived in

Wilson County, Tennessee. John Rieff married Hannah Ross Rieff, who was born in North Carolina (born Oct. 12th 1784), her father, Mr. Ross, having come from Ireland in 1750. This Ross, the grandfather of Henry Rieff, fought in the Revolutionary War and guarded prisoners at Guilford Court House. John Rieff's brothers (probably Jacob and Jos.), as well as those of Hannah Ross, fought in the Creek Indian War and in the Mexican War under General Jackson.

John and Hannah Rieff sold their farm in Wilson County, Tennessee, and set out for Arkansas in 1838. They took up their abode about six miles south of Fayetteville. They and their sons seemed to have owned a large acreage — the Kelly place on Kessler Mountain and what is now known as Trent Mountain. The family owned properties also in Fayetteville. In platting the land, John Rieff reserved an acre of ground for the Rieff cemetery and an acre for Rieff's Chapel. The chapel was built and used as a church for many years. It was destroyed by the cyclone. There are still remains of it.

Life must have started to become more orderly for the Kessler Mtn. region with the advent of the Rieff family. In 1840, Rieff's Chapel cemetery enabled these early pioneers a place to respect their dead. Many of the Rieffs, including John, Hannah, Orren M., Henry, Washington G., and other notable pioneers of the area are buried here.The most notable feature of the cemetery is the group of three raised cut-stone graves; one of Hannah on which are engraved the words. "Here lies Hannah the wife of my youth.

Here lies Hannah Rieff

Philip Kessler's Marker

The mother of my children. Born Oct. 12th 1784 Died April 11th 1853 John Rieff"; one of Mrs. Polly Brinson, who is the daughter of John and Hannah also called Mary, who died also in 1853; and the last one of Mrs. Mary Alexander Rieff, who was the first wife of Martin C. Rieff, born Nov. 15th 1821 died Oct. 19th 1845. Martin C. Rieff is not buried in the cemetery because in 1853 (a sad year for the Rieffs due to the deaths of Hannah and Polly), he left with his second wife and children for Sacramento, California, a journey that took five months and three days. To the south side of Hannah's grave, lies the grave of John Rieff, which only has a footstone with the initials J. R. and a fragment of a headstone that reads, "82yrs, 11mos, 14days". Earlier remarks about the cemetery in previous

Rieff's Chapel Cemetery

FLASHBACKS remark about the solitary wind-whipped pine in the center of the cemetery as a most notable feature. Unfortunately, according to Miss Kelly, the large pine tree fell down about 15 years ago. She added, "That old pine tree grew there so long that when the wind storm blew her over, she had enough sense not to fall on a single marker." Today the cemetery is cared for by Eugene Kelly with some help from his brother Ed and his sister Alice. (These three elderly residents living on their family homesite for all these years are a precious sight indeed. Ed even showed me a piece of that old pine tree in his woodpile that he and Eugene cut up for firewood.) The cemetery has since received five new maples, one in the center and the rest in the corners. Miss Alice Kelly asked me, "Did you see the five maple trees? We planted them to replace that old pine tree. Ed and Eugene planted them five for us five sisters". After some debate between Alice and Ed, they couldn't remember which tree was named which, but were positive the

center tree stood for Grace, the oldest, and the skinniest one for Catherine. Finally, the last important feature of the cemetery is that there are several graves marked only by pieces of sandstone sticking out of the ground. According to Miss Kelly, whose father knew every grave, many of these unmarked graves are of John Rieff's slaves, especially those surrounding his grave. Unfortunately, Miss Kelly's father's documentation of the graves was never mapped, so his secret lies with him in Rieff's Chapel Cemetery.

The descendants of the Rieff's are too numerous to mention in a report of this nature; however, for clarity's sake I have included a listing of John Rieff's family and that of his son, Orren Murray. Much of this family history can be found in an article printed in the May 1967 issue on page 19 from a family Bible record sent to the Washington County Historical Society by Robert M. Ausbourne of Tampa, Florida.

John Rieff born June 9, 1787 died May 23, 1870 age 82yrs, 11mos, 4days
Hannah Ross Rieff born Oct. 12, 1784 died April 11, 1853
(married April 20, 1809)

Orren Murray born Feb. 27, 1810 died May 11, 1894
(married Matilda Ann Fambro May 19, 1834 - she died Jy. 31, 1896)

John and Hannah's children continued

Washington Gwinn born Oct. 24, 1811 died Feb. 7, 1861
(He doesn't appear to have married - appears in 1850 census at the house of Jefferson Kelly)

Mary (nicknamed Polly) born Aug. 4, 1814 died 1853
(married Rev. Thomas Brinson while still in Tennessee on Nov. 25, 1834)

Martin Cartmell born Dec. 22, 1816 not buried at Rieff Cemetery
(married Mary Alexander, who was born Nov. 15, 1821 and died Oct. 19, 1845. Martin remarried and in the 1850 census is listed as having lived with Eliza, his new wife, aged 24 born in Tennessee and children Matilda aged 8 born in Ark. of his first wife, Mary aged 3 and James aged 1)

Nancy White born June 24, 1819 died Dec. 23, 1819
(probably buried in Wilson County Tennessee)

Martha Carpenter born Nov. 2, 1820 died Oct. 3, 1823
(probably burried also in Wilson County Tennessee)

Henry born Oct. 23, 1823 died Aug. 29, 1874
(married Sarah, nicknamed Sallie, O. Wilson, the daughter of one of Fayetteville's first store owners. His tombstone bears the masonic symbol.)

Elizabeth born Oct. 14, 1826

(She married Thomas J. Kelly. In the 1850 census, their children were William, aged 6, Marget, aged 4, and Josephine, aged 1. Elizabeth was the second wife of Thomas, who was 12 years older than she. She also bore a daughter Catherine and a son John, born two years before the Civil War and the father of Alice, Ed and Eugene who live on their family plot today.)

Orren and Matilda's children are:

John William born July 26, 1835 died Sept. 29, 1885
(married Mary Catherine Wilson on Jan. 6th 1859
remarried to Malvina Hunt on Dec. 16th 1875)

Robert Stewart born July 31, 1837 died May 28, 1863
(He died near Little Rock in the Confederate Army)

Mary Jane born Jan. 13, 1839 died Oct. 29, 1895
(married Mr. James Evans on Oct. 27, 1867)

Susan Elizabeth born June 26, 1840 died Nov. 28, 1846

Eliza Catherine born March 7, 1843 died July 1904

Henry Martin born Dec. 22, 1844 died Sept. 21, 1913
(married Lizzie (Sarah Elizabeth) Burkitt in Dec. 1895

Margaret Delana born Feb. 7, 1847

Laura born Oct. 21, 1848
(married Mr. Thomas Jefferson Fine on Dec. 19, 1867

Matilda Adaline born Nov. 2, 1850 died Nov. 1, 1861

Orren Murray Jr. born Oct. 31, 1852 died May 10, 1876

In the mid nineteenth century, this mini community formed along the Old Wire Road, the telegraph wire road that led from St. Louis to Fort Smith. This main road from Fayetteville to Moffit, (now called Hogeye), stretched through this area from about where Ted Guhman's house exists to Ben F. Johnson III's house. This road has been dormant for about 45 years. It helped tie the community with Fayetteville and gives meaning to the seemingly unpatterned appearance of the original homesites. The road bridged a small stream. Today, the excellent stone embankment exists; however, the 8-foot wood bridge plankings have since washed away. In addition, the road gives meaning to the location of the Rieff Chapel, which doubled as the district No. 12 school, and the location of the Rieff Chapel Cemetery. In addition to the Old Wire Road, the location of the present day Cato Springs Road served as a spur to Greenland. These two roads remained important and are clearly marked in an early plat book of 1908 at the Washington County Historical Society in Fayetteville (I am confused about the owners' names of a J.M. Cook and a J.W. Rogers as owners of the top of Kessler Mtn. They are not listed as owners of the property from the abstracts.)

The new community was filled with a congruity of various occupations. John Rieff owned a large farm. From the Nov. 1951 issue of *FLASHBACK*

on page 10 we learn:

> In 1854 John Rieff transferred ownership of all his property, real and personal to Henry Rieff, and five years later Henry deeded it back to his father. The reason for this is obscure. The transfer on Oct. 13, 1854, covered 6 parcels of land, 2 Negro slaves (Madison 32 and Wesley 18), all horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, all farming utensils including wagons, all household furniture, and all debts "due or owing to me." The deed included this provision: "I reserve the right to use and possess any or all of said property during my natural life."
>
> The property was returned on Mar. 8, 1859, when Henry and Sarah O. Reiff (sic) transferred to John Rieff "all ... which were conveyed to said Henry Reiff by said John Reiff 13 October 1854." (The name is spelled both Rieff and Reiff on the various documents; family letters are all signed Rieff.)

Another resident of the area, Rev. Thomas Brinson, who married Mary Rieff, better known as Polly, conceivably preached at the Rieff Chapel. However, he was a Baptist minister and the church was listed as being a Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Catos, who lived at the base of Kessler Mtn. nearby the present Cato Springs post office, were metal workers. Miss Alice Kelly is very proud of the fireplace utensils, made by the Catos, that have been passed down from her grandfather. According to Miss Kelly, her grandfather made wagon wheels and was in constant collaboration with the Catos. Mr. Thomas Jefferson Kelly's real love was probably the army. He is the resident of the Kessler Mtn. area who has had an unmatchable, historically, significant life. (A newspaper clipping from the Northwest Arkansas Times from 1952, on this gentleman will be reprinted in a future issue).

In addition to the information that occurs in the article, Miss Alice Kelly added some information that wasn't mentioned. Thomas, better known as Jeff, was given the Kelly homesite as a wedding present from John Rieff. Thomas J. Kelly built a central hall cottage, with 1 room deep rooms flanking a central fireplace hall. This place was extensively renovated in 1931 in the American bungaloid fashion. The renovation included adding a second room on the rear of the original one-deep structure. Today, this is the house of Miss Alice Kelly and her brother Ed. The house has been little worked on since the 1931 renovation, even the dust and soot that is all over the place appears to be from this era. Being in the living room (the central hall) is like taking a journey back in time. The fireplace continues to remain as the most important feature of the house. In addition to the fireplace, an old piano that is covered by old photographs lines one wall. The Kelly's are very proud of these photographs, especially the one of their dad and mom, which photo looks to be the newest of their collection. This photo is very old since John Kelly was born two years prior to the Civil War and Anna died on Dec. 30, 1948. The Kellys also own two very old photos encased in leather cases with red linings that have intricate gold framings. One of the pictures is of Thomas and Elizabeth Kelly. Miss Alice Kelly called these, "those old

cellulite photos". This photo must be very old because T.J. Kelly died in 1897 at the age of 79 and he doesn't appear to be in his advanced years yet. Luckily, this house has survived; because it was to be burned by the Union soldiers during the occupation of this land by the federal forces. According to Alice, T.J. Kelly was to shoot a prisoner caught early on in the Civil War. Jeff couldn't in his heart kill a defenseless man so he took him to the bottom of a hill where he fed him raw turnips until it was safe for him to leave. Later during the occupation of the area by the Federals, the Union soldiers were ordered to burn the houses of known Confederate officers. This man who had been saved by T.J. Kelly led a group of soliders to the Kelly homesite. When they arrived, Elizabeth Rieff Kelly, Jeff's wife, said, "You can't burn this house because it is the house of the famous Thomas Jefferson Kelly." When this soldier heard this, he ordered the house saved.

In addition to this old house, the area has one other pre-Civil War home, the old Wozencraft house. The house was built by Martin Luther Wozencraft, an immigrant of Welsh stock. The house appears to have been a double pen frame house with a stone fireplace on each end. The southern fireplace in addition to the frame wood walls on this side of the house have been crudely ripped away and a cheap tin siding erected. This house was

Martin Luther Wozencraft's home - 1983

lived in by John E. Dotson. Eight of the nine Dotson children were born in this house which was used at least up to 1931. From old school records kept at the School Supv. Office in the Washington County Courthouse, the Dotsons name is listed. Raymond Reynolds now owns this property and has used the house as a storage barn for hay. Recently though, Raymond feels the house is too derelict and dangerous so he no longer uses it. If nothing is done, this house will very shortly rot away like many of the missing structures of the area. Passersby may not even notice this structure (which looks

more like a barn than a house) and leave it to its doom.

The last of the original homesites, left until now, is that of Philip Kessler. I do not think that John Rieff, who bought the top of the mountain from the U.S. government, or its second owner, Thomas J. Kelly, the famous war hero, ever built any structures here since their houses existed elsewhere. Unlike the former two owners of the property, little has been written about the Kesslers. Much of what I learned is from an interview of Miss Alice Kelly, who is the daughter of Anna Louise Kessler. Anna had told her about the history of the Kesslers. In addition to this interview, an earlier interview of Ben F. Johnson III proved to be of some value towards the understanding of the Kessler history.

According to Miss Alice Kelly, Philip Kessler was born in a town in Germany that she was unable to spell but she remembered it sounded like Boda-me, Germany. (I searched present day maps of Germany and found no towns that look as if they would be pronounced that way. There is a town near Frankfurt that is spelled Bodnames that came closest to any resemblance of Alice's pronunciation. However, I feel that the town probably is spelled with two words with the first as Bad, a common prefix for towns in Germany meaning resort or bath. Alice said that her Aunt Catherine Kessler visited the town when she was a nurse in World War I and told Alice about the town. Also, possibly, the town could have been destroyed in World War II.) Alice said that Philip's ancestors were winemakers and the town in Germany was run by the Kessler Wineries. Philip Kessler was brought to this country by his parents when he was very young and settled in Springfield, Illinois. There in Springfield, he met and married Kate J., who is also called Catherine. Kate was also born in Germany and had come to this country with her parents when she was very young. Philip and Kate had their first child, Clara Elizabeth, while they were in Springfield. Shortly thereafter, within two years of Clara's birth, the Kesslers migrated to Washington County, Arkansas and settled on top the mountain because it reminded them of the stories they were told about Germany. From the property abstracts, on Nov. 19, 1866, Philip Kessler bought from Thomas T. and Elizabeth Kelley (sic) the NW¼ of SE¼ and SW¼ of SE¼ and SE¼ of SE¼ and 13 acres in. I would imagine the description should include the words, "of Sec. 36 T 16 R 31W." According to Miss Kelly, the Kesslers arrived in a brand new surrey with four beautiful horses. The surrey contained Philip's wealth of $11,000 in gold. This is hard to believe for this would have been an enormous sum of money for the time; however, it would explain Philip's ability to be able to start a wine making business in just three years. Alice had no idea where Philip earned the money. This wine business was in full operation by 1869 which is evidenced by several ads that appear in the papers until 1873. The ad changed from the format of the 1869 ad in 1870, which lasted to 1872. The new ad follows as such:

Kessler Vineyard

5 miles SW of Fayetteville

Keeps on hand a full supply of native grape wines

celebrated Champaign Cider.
The trade supplied for sale at Dorman's Bakery
Grape cuttings for sale

Then in 1872, the ad read as follows: "Kessler celebrated wines and Peach and Apple brandies kept for sale. Drinks 10¢ - 3 for 25¢" Finally, in 1873, his ad read:

Wine Halle
Re - Opened

The undersigned announces to the public that he has re-opened the Wine Halle in this city with a full stock of Native Wines Champaign, Cider, Lager Beer.

Give me a call second door west of Lueders' corner
Fayetteville, Ark.

Philip Kessler

In an article in the Weekly Democrat (now called the Northwest Arkansas Times), there appeared a description of the businesses of Fayetteville on Dec. 9, 1871 that includes the Wine Halle, Philip Kessler's establishment in town. The article is titled "A Saunter Round Town" which says, "...over on West Center St. we have the boot establishment of L.F. Van Briggle. Across the street is situated "Wine Halle" where the bad little boys of town congregate at nights and "shove billiards"..." Then a tragic event occurred, according to Miss Kelly. Judge Dowell, whose house is the beautiful "I" house that has been left derelict at the corner of Cato Springs Road and the bypass threatened to put Philip in jail because he had never paid any taxes. According to Miss Kelly, Philip being unaccustomed to this country didn't realize he had broken the law and promised to do anything to stay out of jail. As was common in those days, many people took advantage of the people from the old country. Philip turned over his entire stock and sold all his property, leaving Judge Dowell a wealthy man. Judge Dowell sold Philip's stock in Little Rock and made a handsome price. Philip Kessler sold the top of the

25 *Judge Dowell's house today*

mountain to Thomas Jennings. In an article on Jan. 29, 1870, in the Weekly Democrat in another saunter around town, the writer says, "...walk down College Ave. where Thos. Jennings has built one of the finest livery stables in the state." In addition to selling the property on top the mountain and his stock, from an article that appeared in the newspaper on Sat. Oct. 11, 1873, "Philip Kessler has leased the City Hotel, Southwest corner of the square." Today, all that exists of this wine business, that is probably one of the first of its kind in the state, is the remarkable wine cellar, and stories about it.

The wine cellar was probably built between 1866 and 1869. It consists of ancient vaulting techniques that Philip must have learned from the techniques passed down through his winemaking ancestors. The stones are held together by a lime mortar and the help of gravity. The cellar digs into the West hillside a remarkable 40 feet. There are seven large bands of stone that are approximately six feet wide which act as individual arches. On the lower half of the cave, the natural stones show tooling marks that are very smooth as if a rod was used to place dynamite about every three feet. The height of the arch is 10 feet high in the middle. About three feet from the rear of the cave, there appears a one foot square cut out on the roof that is grown over. The back wall has fallen down slightly on the left side and a spring flows into the cave through the back wall on the right. In the rear left corner, there is a pile of small, flat black pieces of stone that look like shale or slate. Inside the cave, I found only one piece of graffitti midway on the right side. At the entranceway, there are several pieces of graffitti. The easiest one to read occurs on the right flanking of stones, which is marked TDK which doesn't match any of the Kesslers or the Kelly's that I know. On the left side, there is a large stone that is filled with graffitti, as if meant to be used for this purpose. In addition, the only dated graffitti occurs on the inside face on the left side of the entrance, which is dated 1936.

There is some confusion to the placement of the vineyards in the minds of Mr. Johnson versus the Kellys' thoughts. Mr. Johnson had heard that the vineyards existed only in a small area in the flats where the Reynolds houses are today. He had thought that two years prior to his coming to his homesite in 1908 at the age of seven, John E. Dotson, who lived in the old Wozencraft house, plowed these old vineyards under because he felt it was sinful that the product of the Devil was grown on his land. Mr. Johnson added that Philip owned the wine-making business only as a front to his whiskey business. He owned a still with piping that ran up a hole in the roof that was connected to his stove in his house which was located on the top of the cave. When federal inspectors looked into the cave, they saw only wine bottles and didn't suspect that the smoke rising from the chimney came fron a still.

At first this story seemed slightly believable because several individuals of the area claimed that there were many twisty trails that led up the mountain and after drinking Mr. Kessler's drink, the trails straightened out. In addition, I thought there might be a connection between Philip and a Julius K. Kessler whiskey company that had started in the 1870's. Kessler whiskey is still sold

today; however the company is now run by the Seagram Co. After receiving much information from Seagram's, I could find no connection between the two. In addition, I find it hard to believe that there wouldn't be a slight trace of a foundation on top of the cave.

According to Miss Kelly, the entire mountaintop was covered by vineyards. The grapes were collected and put through a wine press that was on top of the cave and piping carried the juice down through the hole into a vat. Mr. Kessler lived in a log house built on the present site of the inn. When he had to sell everything, it practically killed Philip. He then moved down the mountainside to another log house on the main road. This site is slightly obscure because it probably was the site on the Raymond Reynolds property where he removed an old rotted log foundation but isn't quite sure of its exact location today. Miss Kelly's story seems to have less faults. The entire top of the mountain is surrounded by young scrub trees and the location of the well that Mr. Kessler had dug is by the present inn. This well has an interesting story surrounding its existence. Mr. Kessler was supposedly tight-fisted with his money and thought that a well would have to be dug all the way to the bottom of the mountain. Since it was customary at the time to pay by the foot of depth, Mr. Kessler was afraid that the cost would be enormous so he thought he was shrewd by offering to pay a flat rate of $300. He hired a man from Farmington to dig the well. This man using a peach wand found water only 15 feet below the surface at the present location of the well. This fee of $300 was a hearty sum of money for the task involved at this time. The welldigger offered to give the money back but Philip wouldn't accept it. The welldigger was happy, but Philip never forgot that episode which he told to his children and grandchildren on many occasions.

Philip and Kate had several children in addition to Clara Elizabeth. Their children's names were: Joseph; William John; Engle Henry; Edwin; Raymond; Frederick; Cara Elizabeth (Quick); Ada Lee (Nirk); Kate Maude; Catherine; Mary Madaline (Johnson); and Anna Louise (Kelly). On the tombs of Philip and Kate Kessler, are the words, "In my father's house are many mansions." The marker says that Philip Kessler was born Feb. 5, 1828, died July 18, 1893 and Kate J. was born Feb. 23, 1843, died May 24, 1913. From the newspaper article of Thursday July 20, 1893, it states, "The Democrat regrets to learn of the death of Mr. Philip Kesler (sic) which occurred Tuesday at his home four miles southwest of the city. He was an honest, industrious and useful citizen." In the Democrat on Thursday May 29, 1913 appears Kate's obituary notice. It reads, "The remains of Mrs. Kate J. Kessler were brought here yesterday from Oklahoma and laid to rest in Rieff's Chapel Cemetery. Mrs. Kessler was the mother of Mrs. Will Qujol (I believe to mean Quick) of this city who has the sympathy of the entire community in her sad bereavement."

The property at the top of the hill was once again sold on August 17, 1883 by Thomas Jennings to John A. Mough. According to Miss Kelly, Mr. Mough had built a two-story frame "I" house that had burnt to the ground shortly after he had finished building. Miss Kelly's mother, Anna Louise, was ten years old at the time of the fire. Mr. J.A. Mough sold the property to

J.R. Hicks on Aug. 13, 1888, who then sold the property a year later on Dec. 1889 to Isaac W. Duncan. The legal description talks of "one undivided ½ interest W half of SE¼ and SE¼ of SE¼ and part of NE¼ of SE¼. Four acres were sold to a Woodmousel of the SW corner of SE¼ Sec 36. Another 20 acres were then sold off to a Ferdinand Bower. Finally in 1925, Sarah Basima Trent, Laura Trent Parkinson and C.W. and Dorothy A. Parkinson bought the land from Duncan's. Sarah, who comes from the pioneering family that founded Farmington, was said to have looked up to the mountain from Farmington and remarked, "One day I'm going to own that mountain and I will build the largest place on top of it." In 1930, John E. Dotson helped build the Trent house. He was about 14 years old at the time. The house was constructed of rock obtained from along the west ledge of the mountain near the south end of the mountain. Sarah meant the place to be a summer home for the ladies of the Hockaday School for Girls in Dallas. She and her cousin Bess, (the daughter of Albert L. Trent who planted the old trees on Park Ave. and in Wilson Park in Fayetteville) taught at this school which specialized in women's etiquette. Ed Kelly remembers Sarah and another visiting lady from the school down at Cato Springs sightseeing. "Sarah," Ed said, "was fat and she couldn't make it up the hill to get back to the rock house." Ed helped the two ladies on his horse bareback. He said, "You should have seen these two ladies that just got back from Europe riding that horse. It was a sight." The Trent family is quite interesting and I refer you to an article printed in the June, 1955 issue of *FLASHBACK* that is dedicated to them.

These ladies sold the house to L.G. Melvin who allowed the installation of the radio towers and the bench markers which are used to map the entire Washington County. Mr. Melvin then sold the property to Helen Goodloe and Gaye Turner and these people sold it to Claude and Marjorie Bowman in 1961. The Bowmans were very much in love with this site and kept accurate records of the rainfall and tree growth on their 86 acres. The Bowmans also built the pond as an area for meditation. Mr. Bowman spent much time sitting on the bench by the pond. Today since the land is cooperatively owned, a large property like this can be enhanced by special projects like the tennis courts which add an element of play.

I am extremely lucky to have been able to see this area for several months since the inception of this report. It is continually changing with the seasons. The Johnson pear farm that dates back to the 1800's is a delight to see in the early spring when the blossoms are in full bloom. Shortly thereafter, the wild cherries, wild plums and dogwoods add color to the area. In a short time afterwards, an array of greens take over as summer sets. Although the area is always changing, maybe some of the past can be brought back to life so that it can remain "a place to rest, to play or just to be".

ALL ABOUT ORATORY

From Bill Nye's Remarks published 1891

Originally, Edgar Wilson Nye had intended to become a lawyer. Born in 1850 in Maine, he began twenty years later to study law in Wisconsin. But that didn't work out too well and the reason, according to Nye, was that, "I could read the same passage that I read yesterday, and it would seem as fresh at the second reading as at the first." In truth, however, it is more likely that Nye and Law simply were not compatible. Law takes itself seriously. It is a solemn profession whose practitioners are seldom unaware of their own importance, and Nye was an irrepressible soul who found it hard to keep a straight face when observing the peculiarities of life, history, and even his own rather considerable hardships.

After law he tried teaching, and American literature is the richer for his having found that occupation, also, to be less than satisfactory.

Then Nye moved to Laramie, Wyoming, where he became a justice of the peace. This occupation, too, proved to be a weedy garden. The problem was this:

> *"... the office was not a salaried one, but dependent solely upon fees. So while I was called Judge Nye, and frequently mentioned in the papers with consideration, I was out of coal half the time."*

Next, Bill Nye became a newspaperman — first as a reporter for the Laramie Sentinel, then as founder-owner of the Laramie Boomerang — and found his true niche in life. On the Sentinel, he said later,:

> *"The salary was small but the latitude was great... By and by I had won every heart with my patient poverty and my delightful parsimony with regard to facts."*

And his Sentinel experience, he added, enabled him to then exercise on the Boomerang:

> *"... a style of fearless and independent journalism... I can write up things that never occurred with a masterly and graphic hand. Then if they occur I am grateful; if not I bow to the inevitable and smother my chagrin."*

As things turned out, Nye's newspaper skill lay not so much in reporting as in entertaining, and soon all Wyoming was chuckling at his columns. Even so, had it not been for his appointment in 1882 as Laramie's postmaster he might never have become known outside his own state. He responded to the appointment, however by publishing in the Boomerang a humorous letter of acceptance — a letter that was then picked up and carried by papers all across the land. This, in turn, so tickled the American funnybone that Nye was catapulted instantly into the national limelight. There he remained, continuing to amuse America, until his death in 1896.

Now none of this would seem to have anything to do with the history of Washington County, Arkansas, but it does have a great deal to do with the understanding of that history. We may discover what the people of a past

era ate and wrote and wore, and we may study what they said and did and built. But until we also pay attention to what made them laugh we can never truly understand them nor recapture the flavor of their time... Because our laughter is the most spontaneous and uncalculated of all our actions and reactions, what makes us laugh is perhaps more revealing of our true character than what we write or say. And late in the nineteenth century the people of Washington County, Arkansas, along with most of the rest of the nation, were laughing at the Remarks of Bill Nye.

Nye's humor was not burdened by a Sociological Message nor was it stained by cynicism. It did not seek to preach, teach or demean. Neither did it attempt to titillate its audience with the lewd or morbid. On the contrary, Nye's wit was simple, clean, and by today's standards some of it might be regarded as "corny". It was the humor the times demanded — fun for fun's sake and a lubricant of wit to ease the flow of days that were often monotonous and times that were often harsh.

Accordingly, both in the interest of past understanding and of present refreshment, we think the Remarks of Bill Nye have a place here in FLASHBACK.

Rex Alan Smith

WENTY CENTURIES AGO LAST CHRISTMAS there was born in Attica, near Athens, the father of oratory, the greatest orator of whom history has told us. His name was Demosthenes. Had he lived until this spring, he would have been 2,270 years old; but he did not live. Demosthenes has crossed the mysterious river. He has gone to that bourne whence no traveler returns.

Most of you, no doubt, have heard about it. On those who may not have heard it, the announcement will fall with a sickening thud.

This sketch is not intended to cast a gloom over your hearts. It was designed to cheer those who read it and make them glad they could read.

Therefore, I would have been glad if I could have spared them the pain which this sudden breaking of the news of the death of Demosthenes will bring. But it could not be avoided. We should remember the transitory nature of life, and when we are tempted to boast of our health, and strength, and wealth, let us remember the sudden and early death of Demosthenes.

Demosthenes was not born an orator. He struggled hard and failed many times. He was homely, and he stammered in his speech; but before his death they came to him for hundreds of miles to get him to open their county fairs, and jerk the bird of freedom bald-headed on the Fourth of July.

When Demosthenes' father died, he left fifteen talents to be divided between Demosthenes and his sister. A talent is equal to about $1,000. I often wish I had been born a little more talented.

Demosthenes had a short breath, a hesitating speech, and his manners were very ungraceful. To remedy his stammering, he filled his mouth full of pebbles and howled his sentiments at the angry sea. However, Plutarch says that Demosthenes made a gloomy fizzle of his first speech. This did not

discourage him. He finally became the smoothest orator in that country, and it was no uncommon thing for him to fill the First Baptist Church of Athens full. There are now sixty of his orations extant, part of them written by Demosthenes and part of them written by his private secretary.

When he started in, he was gentle, mild and quiet in his manner; but later on, carrying his audience with him he at last became enthusiastic. He thundered, he roared, he whooped, he howled, he jarred the windows, he sawed the air, he split the horizon with his clarion notes, he tipped over the table, kicked the lamps out of the chandeliers and smashed the big bass viol over the chief fiddler's head.

Oh, Demosthenes was business when he got started. It will be a long time before we see another off-hand speaker like Demosthenes, and I, for one, have never been the same man since I learned of his death.

"Such was the first of orators," says Lord Brougham. "At the head of all the mighty masters of speech, the adoration of ages has consecrated his place, and the loss of the noble instrument with which he forged and launched his thunders, is sure to maintain it unapproachable forever."

I have always been a great admirer of the oratory of Demosthenes, and those who have heard both of us, think there is a certain degree of similarity in our style.

And not only did I admire Demosthenes as an orator, but as a man; and, though I am no Vanderbilt, I feel as though I would be willing to head a subscription list for the purpose of doing the square thing by his sorrowing wife, if she is left in want, as I understand that she is.

I must now leave Demosthenes and pass on rapidly to speak of Patrick Henry.

Mr. Henry was the man who wanted liberty or death. He preferred liberty, though. If he couldn't have liberty, he wanted to die, but he was in no great rush about it. He would like liberty, if there was plenty of it; but if the British had no liberty to spare, he yearned for death. When the tyrant asked him what style of death he wanted, he said that he would rather die of extreme old age. He was willing to wait, he said. He didn't want to go unprepared, and he thought it would take him eighty or ninety years more to prepare, so that when he was ushered into another world he wouldn't be ashamed of himself.

One hundred and ten years ago, Patrick Henry said: "Sir, our chains are forged. Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston. The war is inevitable, and let it come. I repeat it, sir, let it come!"

In the spring of 1860, I used almost the same language. So did Horace Greeley. There were four or five of us who got our heads together and decided that the war was inevitable, and consented to let it come.

Then it came. Whenever there is a large, inevitable conflict loafing around waiting for permission to come, it devolves on the great statesmen and bald-headed *literati* of the nation to avoid all delay. It was so with Patrick Henry. He permitted the land to be deluged in gore, and then he retired. It is the duty of the great orator to howl for war, and then hold some other man's coat while he fights.

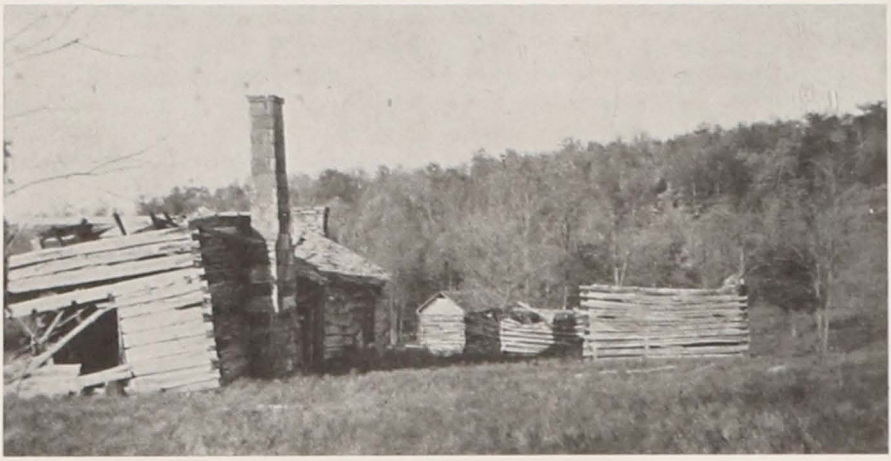
FIVE GENERATIONS OF PIONEERS

by Robert G. Winn

In the summer of 1852 a covered wagon caravan from the state of Georgia arrived in southern Washington County, Arkansas. In this group were Robert and Elizabeth Fagla Reed. At the time of their arrival Robert Reed was sixty-four years old and his wife Elizabeth was fifty. Their daughter Martha Reed Stockburger and her husband John Calvin Stockburger, both twenty-three, were also in the caravan. Their small son Marcus Alexander, always known as Alex was two years old at the time. At the age of twenty-two Alex married Sarah Carroll. In 1874 their first child Effie was born. In 1893 she married Robert Curtis and a year later to them was born the last member of this five generation group - Oscar Lee Curtis.

In those pioneer days large families were the rule. Robert and Elizabeth Reed had thirteen children. John Calvin and Martha Reed Stockburger had twelve - ten lived to maturity and to raise families of their own. Alex and Sarah had six daughters and one son. Robert and Effie Curtis had eight children, and the youngest of this five generation group. Oscar Curtis and his wife Bernice Roberts Curtis raised four.

When this caravan arrived just north of what is now West Fork they camped for the first night on the small knoll just south of the West Fork Lumber Company - and the Dye Branch. A native stone residence now stands on the site. Robert Reed and his wife homesteaded land immediately south of this campsite. Their double log house was built near the present location of the West Fork Baptist Church. They remained in this home until their deaths. He died in 1861 and his wife in 1897.



The crumbling remains of the Robert and Elizabeth Fagla Reed home as it appeared in 1923. The residence stood where the present West Fork Baptist Church is now located.

The first three generations of this early family lived during those perilous years of the Civil War. Young Alex was eleven when Confederate forces bombarded Fort Sumpter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, and began the four year long conflict between the States. He was little past fourteen when General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate forces to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia in April 1865. During those terrifying years the boy was in close proximity to the warring forces more than once. One spring day in 1864 he was plowing in his father's field when a group of Union soldiers arrived. Troops were always looking for replacements for mounts that had been sacrificed in battle. Young Alex was plowing with a small pony when the men approached and unhitched the horse from the plow. The boy loved his pony, and although too small to resist physically he pled with the men not to take his horse. He held to the reins and stroked the animal gently on the neck while the pony nuzzled his head against the boy who stood pleading with tears running down his cheeks. The captain of the group, touched by the boy's tears and his obvious affection for the animal, ordered the sergeant to release the reins, saying the horse was too small to be of much use to the army.

The Stockburger family opposed the war. John Calvin, Alex's father, refused to fight on either side, although his sympathies were with the Union. He did grow produce and peddled it among the Union encampments frequently bivouacked in the region. Early in the summer of 1864 he had just returned from making such a delivery when he and his wife, counting the cash received from the sale, heard bushwhackers approach. Martha, the wife was sitting on an empty keg, the money in her aproned lap. Quickly she turned the keg upside down and emptying the money into it, sat back down. Here she sat quietly while the bushwhackers searched in vain for the money. In spite of their rough treatment of male members of local families, generally bushwhackers treated women and girls with respect. Possibly the fact that in this case the housewife was eight months pregnant enabled her to sit undisturbed while the search went on. A month later she delivered a healthy baby girl. (That baby was this writer's mother.)

During the Battle of Prairie Grove the Stockburger family on the mountain northeast of West Fork could plainly hear the cannon booming. Alex's mother walked the floor because of concern for two brothers engaged in that conflict; both survived, but the young Alex was deeply impressed and became acutely aware of the seriousness of the war.

The end of the conflict between the states did not mean an end to the turbulent times in northwest Arkansas. Throughout the Reconstruction years the strongest law was that of the individual defending himself and his property against the lawless elements that still roamed the country. Feuding factions grew up among residents in many communities. Washington County was no exception. Inadvertently young Alex was drawn into the feuding factions. No husband in his right mind would open the door at night to answer the "Hello" from the gate. Nor would a man directly approach a house and knock on the door. Nor would a man in his own home pass before an unshuttered window where his silhouette could be seen from outside the

house. Such were the times in which Alex Stockburger grew up and through which he lived the first years of marriage.

When Alex Stockburger married in 1873, he moved his young bride into a farm house in the Mineral Springs community, beside a free-flowing spring. Here their seven children were born and grew to adulthood. After retirement he moved into a house in West Fork where he and Sarah spent their last years.

The home of Alex and Sarah Stockburger off the Mineral Springs road. It was here that all the children of this couple were born and grew to adulthood. The parents are standing near the house. Holding the mule "Beck" is Prella Mae. Holding the horse "Maud" is Iva. the picture was taken about 1905.

The eldest daughter Effie married Robert Curtis in 1893 and moved into the home provided by her husband along the road between West Fork and Woolsey. This property was a part of the Karnes' holdings. His mother was a Karnes. At that time every foot of land along the road between the two mentioned places was held by some member of the enterprising Karnes fmaily.

Barely visible in the picture of the five generations - between the well curb and the edge of the porch, is a large rock. It still remains in the same location. It is too large to move without breaking it into pieces. The rock is of special interest because of its use at the time of the Reeds' residence. It has a base of some six or eight feet at ground level. It stands some two and a half feet high. It slops with such a slight angle that a man could step upon it and use the chiselled basin on the top for its intended purpose - to wash his feet. It was called the "foot rock." The top has obvious marks showing that the

rock was chiselled out to make a crude basin. When men returned from dusty work in the fields they stopped here and washed their feet before entering the house. Apparently the water was emptied from the rock basin simply by sloshing it out with the hands.

Another less spectacular but nonetheless interesting rock is one called the "warm rock." It appears to have been hand shaped into a size some two feet square and stands about three feet high. Part of it is now sunk into the ground to stabilize it. The top of this rock is also chiselled to form a basin; here again the water was changed by sloshing it out with the hands. The basin was used for washing the face and hands. This rock now belongs to Miss Bernice Karnes, great-granddaughter of Robert and Elizabeth Reed.

All the people shown in these pictures are now deceased. All lie buried in the Baptist Ford Cemetery beside the West Fork of White River south of Greenland, Arkansas. Their many descendants are scattered throughout the United States from the east to the west coast and in Alaska.

The five members of the pioneer family discussed in the body of this article are Alex Stockburger, standing left; Grandmother Elizabeth Fagla Reed holding cane. She was totally blind when this picture was made in 1895. Next is her daughter, Alex's mother, Martha Reed Stockburger, Small boy son of Effie and Robert Curtis - Oscar Chrtis. Standing right Effie Stockburger Curtis, daughter of Alex, greatgranddaughter of Elizabeth.

Interesting to note that the two married women, mother Sarah and daughter Effie, are wearing black; the unmarried girls are dressed in white - except for the skirt of Oma. Unmarried grown daughters invariably wore white until their wedding day. After that they gave up the youthful white and appeared in black for "dressup occasions". Both the big family Bible lying on the table and the chair in which mother Sarah is sitting are now in the home of Noah's son, Jack Stockburger.

The family of Alex and Sarah Carroll Stockburger about 1910. The picture was taken at the family home south of the Mineral Springs road east of West Fork. Standing L. to R: Delia, b. Sept. 21, 1883, m. C.L. Haskin, d. Feb. 22, 1913; Effie, b. April 30, 1874, m. Robert Curtis, d. May 13, 1949; Noah, b. Jan. 22, 1878. m. Callie Quinton, d. Aug. 24, 1948; Oma, b. May 1, 1880, d. Sept. 26, 1924; Iva, b. Dec. 21, 1893, d. Sept. 26, 1970; Bertha, b. Dec. 23, 1887, m. Legett Woodruff, d. April 22, 1969; Seated - father Alex, b. Nov. 25, 1850, m. Sarah Carroll, 1871, d. March 25, 1926. Standing beside her father, Prella Mae, b. Oct. 21, 1898, d. Nov. 1, 1918.

QUERIES

Mrs. Ruth H. Smith, 3215 Donalee Street, Fort Worth, TX 76119: I am searching for parents and birthplace in Arkansas of Sarah Jane HEWITT (spelling may vary), who married Hiram BLAIR ca 1831/2. Hiram Blair was on tax rolls of Washington County, Arkansas, late 1830's and early 1840's. They moved to Grayson County, TX about 1846, then to Johnson County, TX about 1853. Hiram Blair died in 1864 and is buried Johnson County. Sarah Jane Hewitt Blair administered Hiram Blair's estate on into the 1870's. Date of her death, and place of burial, unknown. She may be buried Action Cemetery in Hood County, TX. Any information will be greatly appreciated.

Sandy Spurgin, 14 Church Lane, Middletown, NJ 07748: Seeking info on John A. BATTERTON, born 1834, Illinois (?); m. Jane SAUNDERS, b. 1854; son George Washington Batterton, b. June 1876, Washington County, AR. Need parents, siblings of John A. and Jane, dates of death.

Nola Mattox Ezell, 11521 Wembley Road, Los Alamitos, CA 90720: Need date of death, cause of death, where buried for Joseph Jonathan MATTOX. The family maintained a farm in Evansville.

Carol J. Dolan, 3225 Sequoia Lane, Reno, NV 89502: Need help on following family lines — BARKER, CHEATHAM, FUNKHOUSER, HICKS, NUNLEY, RICH, SNODGRASS.

Mrs. Mamie E. Parker, 1412 S.W. 54 Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73119: Searching for additional information Winney (CARTER) MARRS, b. 26 May 1825/26 in TN. Married Andrew B. Marrs, 18 June 1850, seven children. She d. 16 March 1867. Need to confirm if parents were Adam Carter and Winney CATES Carter of Prairie Grove, AR.

Barbara Stark, Rt. 3, Box 186-A, Bartlesville, OK 74003: Need information of the family of William BROCK, b. 1850, AR and Elizabeth Ann BURR, b. 1853, AR. They are the parents of twelve children, nine boys and three girls, one of whom is my great-grandfather, Sherrod Wesley Brock. Some of the other known children are: William A. Brock, Edward L. Brock, Charles D. Brock, Fred N. Brock, Nancy Brock, Martha Brock. William's parents are Henry and Martha Brock. Sherrod married Margarette Josephine MARTIN sometime around 1903, and they then lived in Adair and Cherokee Counties, OK. Sherrod died around 1919.

J.J. Scheffelin, Exchange Editor, Texarkana USA Genealogy Society, Texarkana, TX 75504-2323: We are trying to track down Bright Star Community in Arkansas. There is one located in the south end of the present Miller County, formerly Lafayette County, but we have heard that there was another community by that same name, somewhere to the north of Miller County. We would welcome queries from your organization or membership to run in our Texarkana Genealogy Quarterly.

Mrs. Sherman Miller, 1490 Fremont Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022: Is Eliza Ann HINES b. ca 1811 in TN, m. John KENDRICK, b. AL, a descendant of John ALDEN? Where did Jemima FOWLER, b. ca 1815 SC marry Thomas PHELAN, Jr. SC? TN? GA?

Earl F. Arnett, 4363 Olentangy Blvd., Columbus, OH 43214: Wanted — any information on Naomi NEWTON, Washington County 1830, related to Larkin Newton, first county clerk 1829.

Lois Miller of our Society has finished abstracting the deeds from Deed Book A 1830-1838. This book is 52 pages, plus a title page. It includes an *all*-name index and can be purchased from $10.00 postpaid. Write Lois at
1126 Sunset Drive Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Following is information uncovered in

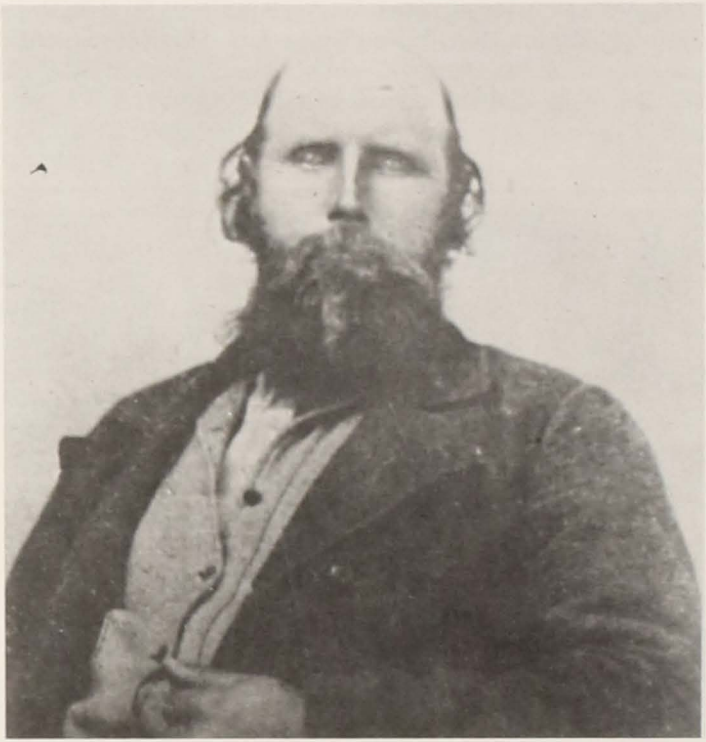
Washington County Arkansas, Circuit Clerk's Office
Deed Book A
The following persons were noted as Deed Book A was abstracted:

Judge of the County Court — John Cureton
Clerk of the Circuit Court — Bryan H. Smithson
Deputies — Alfred M. Wilson, P.R. Anderson, Alfred Wallace
Justices of the Peace:

Jesse Armstrong, John Austin, Wm. McK. Ball, Peyton M. Bass, L.C. Blakemore, Nathanial Burden, James Campbell, Jno. Campbell, Ewing P. Craig, John Cureton, John E. Davidson, John T. Edmiston, Wm. J. Estes, B.G. Estill, Oneseimus Evans, J.M. Hoge, William Kiser, Alexander H. McKisick, A.S. Miller, James D. Moore, John D. Moore, Williamson S. Oldham, James Owens, John Patterson, Lorenzo D. Pollack, N. Reeder, R.W. Reynolds, P.V. Rheas, J.B. Russell, Booker Smith, Bryan H. Smithson, John E. Stallings, James G. Stevenson, James G. Stirman, John G. Stout, Joseph P. Vaughn, John B. Walker, John West, David Williams, Sam'l Wilson, Thomas Wilson, James (? initial) Win, William B. Wooddy.

(Editors' Note: When sending in queries, please print or type the names. Sometimes handwriting is very difficult to read.)

Lola M. Lewis, 33 South Ashland, Apt. 115, Mesa, AZ 85203: (1) Wishes information on deaths of two Levi COMBS; one on Dec. 7, 1862 at battle of Prairie Grove; one at Dr. Pollard's in 1880 or later. He had lengthy obituary in the Fayetteville newspaper saying he was an orphan raised by John ARRINGTON, Sr., father of Sarah Arrington of NC. He left NC about 1822, was in Meigs and Rhea Counties, TN in 1829. In 1830 census in OH, 1830 census in IL (Montgomery County) then on to AR. How many sons and daughters did he have? Alfred, Joel, Louisa known. (2) Wish information on J. (James) Madison CARTER, b. 8 May 1868, d. 6 December 1839, and Mamie E. (Mary Ellen) SWAGGERTY Carter; Her death day (1941 ?). She was born ?October 1871. Also on Greene Carter and other sisters and brothers of J. Madison Carter. Also on mother Martha COOK and father John T. Carter (John Thomas Carter) in census of Washington County, AR, Prairie Twp. Also on Elman (?) Carter of Cane Hill Twp. Latter could be father and grandfather of J. Madison Carter. Need deaths for latter two families. (3) Information as to Luther Alyer/Stella Frances (Carter) Combs family at Center Twp. around Farmington, with children Herbert M./Adel Maybelle, Allen C. Combs.



Clare Risley, Rte. 1, Box 177-A, Lincoln, AR 72744: Is this a picture of Dennis Carroll Kirk, b. 1850, d. 1890? Does anyone know?

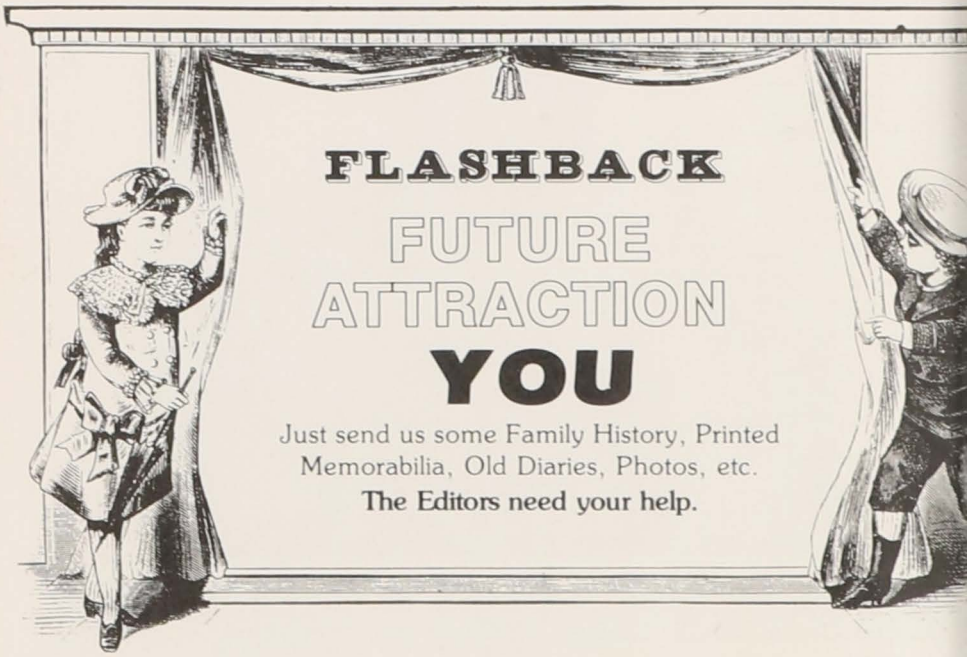
HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO PRESERVE ALL LORE OF CITY AND COUNTY

From Fayetteville Daily Democrat, Friday, February 11, 1927

Looking toward Fayetteville's Centennial in 1928, the Fayetteville and Washington County Historical Society has been organized to take the lead in preparation for this event in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and to establish a group through which fast passing historical data and objects of historical interest of this section may be preserved to the present and future generations.

Major Davidson President

Major B.R. Davidson was elected president: Dr. H.D. Wood, vice president; and Mrs. Frank Peel, secretary-treasurer. Dr. D.Y. Thomas was named historian and program chairman, with Miss Jobelle Holcomb and Scott D. Hamilton members of his program committee. Other charter members include: Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Trent, H.F. Reagan, Mrs. Lena Sharp, Miss Irene Galloway, Miss Evangeline Pratt, Mrs. S.W. Davies, Miss Julia Vaulx, M. Baum, Mrs. Helen Duke, Col. Hugh Dinsmore, Lessie Stringfellow Read, W.S. Campbell, Mrs. W.S. Gregson, J.P. Stokenbury (Elkins), Rev. N.M. Ragland, Miss Amanda Stone.



THE BENJAMEN REED FAMILY

by Wanda Malone Buckner

Benjamen Reed was born in 1759, the son of James Reed and Margaret Floyd. He served in the Revolutionary War at the battle of Kings Mt., along with his elderly father and six brothers.

After the war, Benjamen settled in Gates County, North Carolina, later moving to Montgomery County, Virginia and then to the section of Floyd County, Kentucky that was to become Morgan County. The 1820 census of Floyd County lists Benj. Reed, over 45 years, with wife, seven sons and one daughter.

The children of Benjamen Reed are identified as: (1) James Reed, b. 1801-1802, married Alcy Ferguson in Floyd County, Kentucky, daughter of William Ferguson and Elizabeth Lemaster. Their children were: William F., Daniel m. Martha Ferguson, Lewis m. Isobel (Ibba) Evans, Harry, James, Jane, Eliza m. James M. Ramey, Rebecca, and Mason. James Reed died in Washington County, Arkansas.

(2) Nancy Reed, b. ca 1808 m. (1) James Lewis, son of John and Rachel Henson Lewis, in Morgan County, Kentucky on August 18, 1828. Their children were: William R. Lewis who m. Nancy Webb in Washington County, Arkansas 1851, Benjamen, James, John, 3 daughters yet to be identified, and Daniel J. Lewis b. 1844 who m. Eliza Frances Jones, daughter of Daniel and Margaret Jones.

(3) Stephen Reed.

(4) Daniel Reed b. 4 January 1806 m. Martha (Patsy) Lewis in Kentucky. Their children were: Jesse and Lewis (twins) b. 1830, James b. 1833, Anna b. 1834, Nancy b. 1837, Elizabeth b. 1838, Rachel b. 1840, John b. 1842, Wiley b. 1844 d. 1924, Solomon b. 1845, Sarah b. 1846, Phoebe b. 1847, and William b. 1849.

(5) John Reed b. ca 1811 m. Elinor Auxier in Floyd County, the daughter of John and Jemima Ramey Auxier. Their children were: Lucy, George and Jemima.

(6) Son not yet identified.

(7) Son not yet identified.

About 1834, Benjamen Reed with his son James Reed and family (his son-in-law) and family, left Morgan County, Kentucky and moved to Washington County, Arkansas where his elder brother, John Reed, born 1741, lived. John Reed b. 1741 had a son William who m. Margaret Robertson and lived at Cane Hill. In 1837, Benjamen Reed died and is believed to be buried in the Reed family cemetery at Hazel Valley. This cemetery, neglected for many years, no longer contains any stones marking the graves. His son John Reed and family moved to Arkansas before 1850 and was still living here when the 1860 census was taken. His son James Reed died in 1855 and was probably buried at Hazel Valley.

His daughter Nancy Reed Lewis married (2) Kelly Ferguson in 1845, hav-

ing lost her first husband the year before. She and her second husband moved to Lawrence County, Missouri, where she died between 1850-1860. Her eldest son, William R. Lewis, moved to Burnet County, Texas, and was living there when the 1880 census was taken. Her son, Daniel J. Lewis, returned to Arkansas in 1863 and married Eliza Frances Jones, daughter of Daniel and Margaret Jones and granddaughter of the Rev. Riley Jones. In 1870 Daniel and Eliza moved to Burnet County, Texas where he died on August 15, 1870. Eliza returned to Arkansas with her children James Hugo and Margaret Rachel Lewis, my paternal grandmother.

OUR READERS WRITE

LeAnne Boynton, 61550 Alstrip #73, Bend, OR 97702: "I want to thank you very much for all the information you sent me. It should keep me busy for some time. I recently acquired pictures and letters pertaining to the Carter-McClellan, Yates (Bible records) and Yoe families in Washington County. If at any time anyone would like this information I will gladly send it

Editor's Note:

As always, we were happy to get your compliments — and even the brickbats — that some of you included with your membership renewals. Not surprisingly, the things that some of you liked best also drew the most criticism. Which only means that we have a large range of readers and must, therefore, continue to try to diversify what we print. A couple of people complained about the scarcity of genealogical information published in 1983, and we must reiterate that the policy of the Society is "Preserving the Past for the Future". This means that we are primarily a historical society — not a genealogical group. Plenty of other organizations specialize in genealogical tracing. As it is, our three-hour-a-day office secretary finds his time almost completely consumed by searching for genealogical information. Otherwise, the rest of us are volunteers and do not have the time to research and publish family histories. We must depend on our contributors for those. We can't print what we don't have!

THE REEDS OF GREATHOUSE SPRINGS

by Kate Reed St. Clair & Tammi Reed Ledbetter

Greathouse Springs was home to many families deciding to settle in northwest Arkansas in the mid 1800s, including the Reeds and the Greathouses. Eudora Greathouse was born there in 1859, just a few years after her father had moved the family to the Clear Creek area from Central Arkansas.

About that same time, Lewis and Nancy Reed moved from Alabama and raised their family at Elm Springs. Their fourth child, William Penn, was born in 1852. On November 1, 1885, he married Dora Greathouse Wasson, who was at that time a widow with a small son Alfred.

In 1888 Penn and Dora bought the Greathouse farm on Clear Creek where four sons and three daughters would be raised. These children included Margaret Terressa (born August 23, 1886), Robert Lewis (born February 14, 1888), Alex Hassel (born October 23, 1889), Mary Kate (born January 14, 1892), Fred Penn (born April 13, 1896), Joseph Summers (born April 13, 1899), and Lelia Mabel (born March 13, 1901). In those early years, the valley was mostly timber with a few scattered fields. There was an abundance of wild plums, haws, grapes, hazel nuts, and bushels of pawpaws. Wild turkeys were also plentiful in this community located northwest of Fayetteville.

Penn became an elder in the little country Methodist church at Grandview. Anyone in need always knew that Penn and Dora were friends to whom they could go quietly for help. Penn like nothing better than to sit in front of the huge fireplace on winter evenings and read aloud to Dora and the children such books as "The Last of the Mohicans", "David Copperfield" or "A Christmas Carol".

The long distance to market in those days was alleviated by the Huckster Man. This was a man traveling with a team and wagon who brought the market to the door by stopping on the road in front of the house. He would carry all sorts of wonders in that wagon—candy, sugar, flour, spices, matches, dress goods—anything that was needed, even coal oil for the lamps. He usually had a regular day for passing down Clear Creek, about once every month or every two weeks.

Dora would say, "Now children, this is the day for the Huckster Wagon. I want you to gather up all the eggs from everywhere. Kate, you crawl under the house. Get all the way back under the front room. I am sure I heard an old hen cackling way back under there. There must be a nest of eggs there. Joe, I want you and Fred to catch that old dominecker rooster. He is getting too old for any use. Lelia, you can hunt eggs under the brush on the hillside. There must be some nests out there. When you get that done I want you all to help with the churning. I should have several pounds of butter. We need so many things, but if you are all good and do your chores we will have something for candy. Maybe we can have extra toward your school clothes. You know it is not long until school starts."

This was the incentive they needed to hunt eggs, churn, and catch chickens. The Huckster Man was considered wonderful and so was Dora for giving the children so many things. It was a day for the children to look forward to.

Joe Reed used to recall the times when a report would be circulated at Stony Point School that someone had lice. Dora would get one of the combs with very fine teeth on both sides and comb each child's hair until the scalp was red as a beet. Sometimes she would treat the scalp with a good sousing of coal oil. Joe said he thought at the time that he would rather have had the lice on his head than to take the punishment of the treatment.

The farm where the children grew up at Greathouse Springs was just six miles from the college town of Fayetteville and in some way Penn and Dora planned that their children should attend the university. Only Alfred, the little stepson, graduated from that institution before Penn's death. Lewis and Margaret were attending the university at the time of their father's death.

Penn and Dora worked hard and saved. They trained their children well and placed their faith in God. With a crude loom Dora made carpets for eight and one-half cents per yard. The children milked cows and carried the butter to Fayetteville where it was exchanged for groceries. Many times the sweet pure country butter had greater value than the groceries needed at that time, so the merchant gave them "due bills" which could be traded at a later date for dress goods, beans, flour, sugar, and salt.

A telephone line was built from Elm Springs to Fayetteville with John Wasson as construction contractor. Penn sold poles for 25 cents each. By comparison, a person planted corn all day for 25 cents in those days.

Penn and Dora finally reached a point financially where it began to look as though they could take life easier. But Penn was stricken with a kidney ailment and died within a week on May 20, 1906 at the age of fifty-four.

While continuing to be a hard worker for the rest of her life, Dora Greathouse Reed lived to be 100 years old. She died December 6, 1959, eight days after her birthday.

Their first daughter, Margaret, studied nursing and later taught school. She married Hugh Tate and they had two children, Ora and Sybil, who were raised in Washington. Robert Lewis had become a rancher and married Wanda Hoag. They raised three children, Wanda Alice, Doris, and Robert, in Nevada. Alice married John Watts and they now live north of the old farm at Clear Creek.

Kate also entered the teaching profession and married Arthur St. Clair. They lived in Nevada with their three children. Fred Penn Reed married Frankie Cardwell and eventually returned to farm on Clear Creek. They had two children, Frances and John Penn. The son now lives in Fayetteville, as does his mother.

Joe Reed married Winnie Delozier and continued to farm at the home place, raising four children, Bonnie Gayle, Jack, JoBelle, and Jim. Jim married Juanita Dawson and established a farm west of his home along Clear Creek. JoBelle married Kenneth Carnes and they live north of the home site and raise cattle along the creek.

Lelia, the youngest child of William Penn and Dora Greathouse Reed, made her home in Nevada and married William Moell. They had five children, Bill Jr., Mildred, James, John and Katy.

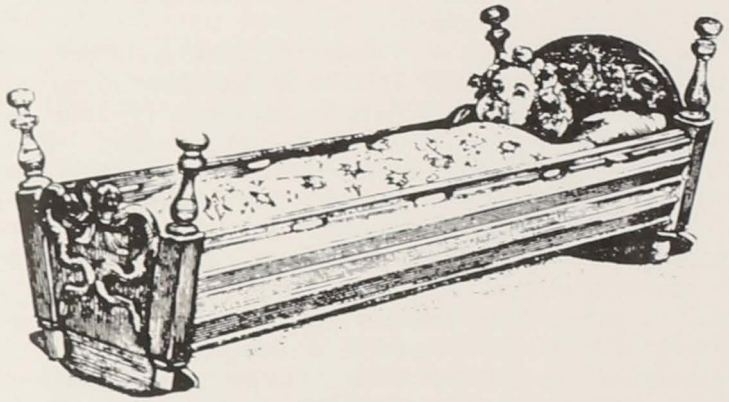
Much of the land along Clear Creek has changed since the days when Penn and Dora farmed at Greathouse Springs. It now serves as pasture land for cattle and the site of numerous turkey houses. But many will remember the area as the home for five generations of the Reed family.

A history of the Reed family of Greathouse Springs has been completed through the research of the late Kate Reed St. Clair and edited by Tammi Reed Ledbetter. The 105-page manuscript traces the family to John Lovett Reed, a Revolutionary War soldier of North Carolina. His son, James, moved to Alabama around 1816, and his descendants later moved to northwest Arkansas in the mid-1850s.

Included in the history are the families of James Reed's children: Margaret, who married Pleasant Stafford of Springdale; John David, who married Sarah Russell and lived near Springdale; Lewis Reed, who married Nancy Coffman and raised eight children at Elm Springs (with many of these descendants moving to Greathouse Springs); Amy Reed, who married Erasmus Powell Reed of Alabama' Isaac Reed, who married Rebecca Ann Rogers and moved to Washington County and later Ozark, Arkansas. Other children mentioned briefly are Elizabeth, James, and Nancy Reed.

All of the known relatives are listed through 1964 when Kate Reed St. Clair completed her first draft of this manuscript, and many of the descendants of John David and Lewis Reed are brought up to the present date. The lifestyle of those early Arkansas settlers and the times in which they lived are described at length through the use of letters and journals, as well as interviews of family members kept by Mrs. St. Clair.

A copy of this history bound in a notebook is available at a cost of $12.00 each from Tammi Reed Ledbetter. You may contact her through her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Reed, 1030 Eva, Fayetteville, AR 72701. The price includes postage.



THE LUTTRELLS

by Barbara Angerman

SHELDON LUTTRELL, 1923-1894

Sheldon Luttrell was known to be of Irish ancestry. A large, red-headed man who lived in Denton County, Texas, he appears in the 1850 census, being numerated as family No. 48:

Sheldon Lutrell, age 27, sex M, color W, occupation farmer, value of real estate $320.00, birthplace Illinois.
E. Lutrell, age 23, sex F, color W, birthplace Arkansas.
W.F. Lutrell, age 5, sex M, color W, birthplace Texas.
Jas. P. Lutrell, age 1, sex M, color W, birthplace Texas.
Remarks: cannot read or write, one servant.

Also numerated in this census as family No. 49 was Elizabeth Lutrell, age 52, born North Carolina. Her family consisted of Ellen Lutrell, age 15, born Illinois; Elizabeth Lutrell, age 13, born Illinois; E.J. Lutrell, age 11, born Missouri; and A.B. Lutrell, age 9, born Missouri.

This Elizabeth Lutrell could have been Sheldon's parent. I also have information on Sheldon and Sallie Bryant Lutrell who lived in Schuyler County, Illinois. They were old enough to be his parents or an uncle. The common first name leads to a possible connection.

It is known that Sheldon Luttrell was born August 1, 1823 in Illinois. He lived in Texas with his first wife Elizabeth Pierce. She was born in Arkansas and died in Texas. Their issue were: W.F. born about 1845; James Postem born about 1849; Samuel B. born about 1851; and Martha Melvira born about 1854; all in Texas.

Sometime after 1854 and before 1857, Elizabeth died. Sheldon married Louisa Jane Null either in Texas or Arkansas. Louisa was born August 17, 1839 in Louisiana. She died February 24, 1915 and is buried at Bell Cemetery, Richards Ford, Arkansas.

From the union of Sheldon and Louisa, the following children were born: (1) Elvira, born August 31, 1857, Wheeler, Washington County, Arkansas, married James Craig. (2) Lewis Andrew, born July 26, 1859, Wheeler, Arkansas. Married May 16, 1878 to Amanda Maberry (1860-1928), daughter of Jacob Maberry, the brother of our John Maberry. Lewis died August 24, 1908 and is buried at White Oak Cemetery, Prairie Grove, Arkansas. (3) William born April 6, 1862, died September 18, 1869. (4) Margaret Ann, born May 9, 1866, Wheeler, Arkansas, married November 24, 1881 to Joseph Phipps, she 15 years and he 20 years. She died June 5, 1938. (5) Joseph, born December 22, 1867 or 1869, married Nellie Morris. He died 1941 or 1944 and is buried at Weddington Cemetery, Arkansas. (6) Columbus Lum, born July 3, 1871, Arkansas, married Oad Morris. He died April 8, 1917 and is buried at Weddington Cemetery. (7) Shephard Sheldon, born February 5, 1874, Wheeler, Arkansas. Married Eva Woods.

He died July 3, 1938 and is buried at Weddington Cemetery. (8) Jacob Cue, born March 14, 1877, Arkansas. Married Louisa Phipps, April 5, 1896. He died May 11, 1952.

From the *FAMILY HISTORY* by Mary Jane Marr, "My grandfather (Sheldon Luttrell) was a blue-eyed Irishman with gray, wavy hair. I can remember that he was kind and good to his family and everyone, and that he worked very hard. He passed on (at about age 69) when I was ten or eleven. My grandmother (Louisa Jane Null) lived there on the same farm with the younger boys and lived to be about 80 years of age. The farm, or part of it, is still inhabited by some of the family. They were a very close, happy family.

"The farm was located on the Illinois River with log house on the hillside as the river went wild sometimes and covered the lowlands. My Dad had two half-sisters and six half-brothers, making eleven children in all to live in this home with their parents. Their home was a large log structure with a large room upstairs, a large room on the side and a large fireplace to warm it. My grandmother smoked a pipe after dinner, and she would let me dip up a few live coals and put in her pipe. I would pull a little smoke through to see if it was started, but I never got the habit."

JAMES POSTEM LUTTRELL, 1849-1903

James Luttrell was born April 21, 1849 in Texas, son of Sheldon and Betty Pierce Luttrell. He lived in Texas for about five years, then moved with his family to northwestern Arkansas where he spent the rest of his life.

James married Ava Jane Maberry in 1877 in Arkansas. She was the daughter of John and Mary Jane Pass Maberry. She was born December 6, 1860 and died October 24, 1903. James died July 14, 1903. They are buried together in Mt. View Cemetery, Arkansas.

The children from this marriage were: (1) John Shelton, born January 22, 1880 in Arkansas, died August 3, 1953 at Muskogee, Oklahoma, married Maggi (?). (2) Mary Jane, born October 20, 1882 at Weddington, Arkansas. Married William Marr on November 26, 1903 at Weddington. They lived in Nebraska, Arkansas, and Forest Grove, Oregon. She died June 11, 1966 in Oregon. (3) James Robert, born 1884, died at age 1½ years, buried in Mt. View Cemetery, Washington County, Arkansas. (4) Margaret Elizabeth "Bettie", born December 23, 1886, Washington County, Arkansas. Married Code Templeton. Died October 24, 1937. They lived in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Oregon. These were my grandparents. (5) Benjamin Frank, born May 16, 1890. Married Verda (?). He died December 13, 1960 at Forest Grove, Oregon. (6) Anna "Alice", born August 10, 1892 in Arkansas. Married Abe Hudson. She died September 8, 1951 at Warren, Oregon. (7) Minnie "Olive", born March 8, 1895, Arkansas. Married Sam Bledsoe. (8) Lester Esteen, born November 9, 1897 in Arkansas. Married Winnie Eastman on September 8, 1920. They lived in Kalama, Washington. (9) Willie "Clyde", born February 12, 1900,

married Alta. They lived in Scappose, Oregon. (10) Irvin Leo, born September 29, 1902 in Arkansas. He died July 24, 1970, and lived in Warren, Oregon.

James and Ava Luttrell farmed 80 acres of land five miles from his father's farm in Arkansas. In 1903, when the typhoid fever caused so many deaths, it took both of them within three months.

Continuing from Mary Marr's story, she writes, "When the Civil War was on, my father was sixteen. They had a battle at Prairie Grove, and he visited the field after the battle and picked up some cannon balls. They were a little larger than a baseball and very heavy.

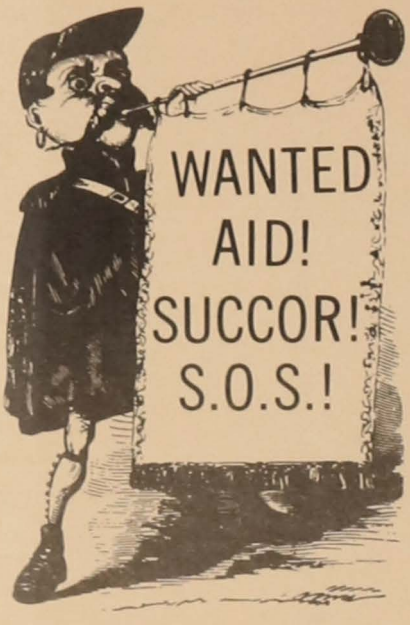
"My father bought eighty acres of cheap land, had to clear it, pick the rocks off, pile them on the line for a fence, and build a small house. He was 28 and my mother was 18 when they were married and moved to this farm. He had a team of mules and a cow or two. Soon after they were married they picked out a nice level spot near the road and cleared it of timber and rocks. He dug a well, walled it up with smooth sand rocks, and built a large log room with a room upstairs and a large room on the back side for the kitchen and dining room. He hewed out these logs making them straight and nice. Most of their family of ten (John, Mary, Robert, Bettie, Frank, Alice, Olive, Lester, Clyde and Irvin) were born in this house. When I was eight or ten, he had a carpenter put siding on the outside and ceiling on the inside. He painted it white and I thought we had a wonderful, fine home. We did, for it contained much love and understanding."

The following is from a letter written by their daughter Olive Bledsoe on April 21, 1983:

"You asked about Uncle Sam Luttrell, he was my father's brother and lived about 2 miles from where we lived at Mt. View. He was so good to us children after our parents died. He would walk to our place and stay a few days and help Frank with the farming. He was our guardian. He was like a father to us, but when Frank was 18, Uncle Sam had to have one leg amputated so he told Frank that he could take over and see about us children. He was a good worker and a good boy and we looked up to him.

"My husband Sam came from Tennessee to Arkansas. He had a brother Bob that lived there so he stayed and worked for the farmers. He was working for Mr. Dunnagan when I met him. That is the Dunnagan that married your (Haws) relation. They had four daughters and they went to school at Mt. View where I went. They were a very nice family. Sam worked for him for some time and he would come to Mt. View to church. After I met him he asked to come to see me. At that time I was 19 years old and was keeping house for my four brothers, Frank, Lester, Clyde and Irvin, as Bettie and Alice were married. We went together for 14 months and Sam rented a farm and wanted to sow wheat so he wanted us to be married. I loved him and didn't think it was fair to make him wait. He was 25 years old and I was 20 so I said yes. (1915)"

Have you compiled your Washington County family history?
Submit it to *FLASHBACK.*



Just send us some Family History, Printed Memorabilia, Old Diaries, Photos, etc. The Editors need your help.